STOURBRIDGE
CHRONICLE

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RAT FEARS

Petition demand on overgrown garden

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ALL IN STEP

Dancing grannies on way to stardom

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VISITOR CENTRE PLAN CONCERNS

CAMPAIGNERS have raised concerns over a proposed £2.5 million visitor centre near in a revamped park near Stourbridge.

They claim it would create traffic problems and spoil green belt land. But National Trust and English Heritage bosses have welcomed the scheme for Hagley Park.

By Andrew Turton

Both said it would provide public access to the historic beauty spot.

Proposals for a visitor centre to be built in the grounds of Hagley Hall, have been unveiled as the next stage of a tourism project.

Estate owner Lord Cobham wants to reopen the surrounding parkland for visitors in a bid to boost income.

Designs have been submitted for the visitor centre, with accommodation for rangers and a 178-space car park, on land off the A456 opposite the Badgers Sett pub.

Lord Cobham hopes income from up to 100,000 visitors a year will provide sustainable revenue aimed at helping pay vast costs associated with maintaining the 18th century hall and 300-acre park.

Harm

However, some residents and campaigners have raised concerns with Bromsgrove District Council's planning department.

Campaigner Mick Freer represents the Halesowen Abbey Trust, which aims to safeguard the Manor Abbey ruins in the town centre.

In a letter to the council, he said the centre could harm views of the neighbouring Clent Hills between the village and Halesowen.

"The Clent Hills and the land down to the A456 are an important visual and informal recreational amenity, which remain unspoilt," he said. "Indeed, a major public right of way, giving access to the Clent Hills, is adversely affected by the proposed development."

Resident Peter Rowbottom also wrote to the council saying it was an inappropriate and unacceptable development in the greenbelt.

Wendy Sloper, also in a letter, said: "This development will increase traffic flows on the already overloaded A456.

"There have already been a number of accidents on this road and traffic entering and leaving from the visitor centre will increase congestion and create the potential for more accidents."

But in a letter of support, English Heritage said it did not consider the proposals would have a negative impact on the historic landscape or on the designated heritage assets."

Chris Lambart, of the National Trust, said: "The National Trust very much welcomes the proposed restoration of Hagley Park and the proposals for providing public access to the historic park."

A decision on the application will be made soon.

College to get arts centre in revamp

A PERFORMING arts centre, catering for hundreds of students, will be the next phase of a multi-million pound transformation of Halesowen College.

It will provide teaching rooms and rehearsal space for students on music, drama and dance courses and will be built at the Whittingham Road campus.

It is the latest stage at the site which is seeing £20million invested in replacing outdated buildings.

The college has been struggling to provide enough space for the growing number of students taking performing arts courses.

Some are currently having to travel off campus to use facilities at Benjamins, a function and conference hall, in the town centre.

The venue is used by students for daytime sound checks and performances. Some lectures take place on campus.

Bosses said having onsite teaching rooms will cut costs for both students and the college.

It's estimated that from September more than 200 students would have to use facilities at Benjamins.

As well as up to six classrooms, the building will have a performance hall with viewing gallery, which could be used for art shows.

Cheers! Pub voted best

A PUB is celebrating after it was praised for its ale. Graham's Place, Wollaston, has been awarded branch pub of the year by Stourbridge and Halesowen Camra.

Owner Graham Webster said: "It is a great honour to have won this award considering the quality of the pubs."

Branch press officer Simon Hanson said: "It is always a hard task to decide the winner as there are many fantastic pubs, but this year Graham's Place was the clear winner."

Fans go wild for visit by Union J

Joy for Union J fans, from left, Natalie Pearce, aged 14, Kerry and Jack Welch, 10, and Zoe Welch, 15, all from Brierley Hill

HORDES of teenagers descended on a record store in Merry Hill shopping centre to catch a glimpse of heartthrob boyband Union J.

The X Factor boys, JJ, Josh, George and Jaymi, stopped off at HMV shop on Monday during the promotional tour for their new single Tonight (We Live Forever).

They caused a screaming gathering of excitable fans to form out of the front door and out into the Brierley Hill shopping centre.

Josh Cuthbert, 22, said: "This is the first day of signing for our first single off of our second album.

"We spend a lot of time in the studio and doing things like that so it's nice to get out here and see the girls, and guys, who support us."

The band's last album, Union J, reached number six in the albums chart.

Josh said: "The album won't be out until the end of the year or maybe next year.", but the single was released yesterday."

Back out in the store, the fans waited patiently for the band to arrive in a hail of ear-piercing screams with their copy of the single in hand. It is currently at number five in the singles chart.

Zoe Welch, 15, from Brierley Hill said: "My favourite song is their new song, I really love it."

Union J with Ellie Fisher

Extra free parking spaces available

TWENTY extra free parking spaces will be created in Stourbridge town centre, under new plans to support traders and shoppers.

The additional spots will be in Lower High Street, Dudley Council said this week.

A total of 20 angled car parking spaces will be created on the right hand side of the street.

These will mirror the style of parking already being used on the other side of the road.

Council transport bosses anticipate the move will approximately double the number of cars able to park for free for one hour along the stretch of road.

Hope

The spaces will be ready to use from Monday.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, cabinet member for transport, said: "Dudley Council is the only council in the Black Country, and one of a small number of towns and cities across the country, that does not charge to park on any of its public roads.

"We hope this free parking supports local businesses so we are always looking at ways to maximise the free on-street parking that we can offer."

Nursery plans are revealed

PLANS have been revealed to transform an office block in Stourbridge into a nursery and pre-school.

Twinkle Toes Day Nursery has submitted a proposal for a change of use for the building in New Road. It is part of a cul-de-sac created off the three lane ring road near the New Road Methodist Church.

In a statement to Dudley Council, the developers said the amount of parking would be reducedoutside to create a secure play area.

website www.wombourne-windows.co.uk

Wombourne 1st Windows

For more information see page 10

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Man, 22, burgled his cousin's home

A MAN has been jailed for burgling his cousin's home while his partner in crime escaped a prison sentence after a judge heard how he hoped to study philosophy.

Chad Fellows and Chad Welch burst through the unlocked back door of the property in Cowdrey Close, Amblecote, before taking valuables worth £2,470, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard. A neighbour spotted the pair loading up a blue Escort van and she made a note of the registration number. The vehicle was later found empty in Lower Gornal but could be forensically linked to Fellows.

Mr Mark Rees, prosecuting, said both denied involvement but later pleaded guilty to burglary.

Defending Fellows, Miss Rachel Harris said he had acted on impulse because he had debts to pay. Fellows, of The Broadway, Dudley, was 'shocked and embarrassed' by what he had done, she said, particularly as some of the family had cut off contact with his mother as a result.

Mr Stephen Hamblett, defending Welch, also of The Broadway, described him as an intelligent young man who had completed his A levels and hoped to study philosophy at university. The pizza delivery man was a published poet but had 'got in with the wrong people'

Jailing 22-year-old Fellows for nine months, Recorder Derek Chinery told him: "I see you very much as the prime mover." Welch was given a six-month prison sentence suspended for 12 months and ordered to do 125 hours' unpaid work and pay £1,180 compensation.

Building begins on derelict factory site

A NEGLECTED and overgrown former industrial site in Brierley Hill is undergoing a makeover as part of a housing scheme.

Work on transforming the disused Lloyds Ltd metalworks, off Brettell Lane, has got under way.

Residents had been concerned after the site had fallen into disrepair but now piles of rubble, weeds and broken concrete are being replaced by homes Housebuilder Taylor Wimpey is transforming the site and have now formally launched the project.

Councillors welcomed the clearance of the land claiming the former metalworks had become an 'eyesore' .

Two, three and four-bedroom properties are being constructed on the land breathing new life into the area.

The housing developer said the 80 homes scheme was making the most of its 'prime location' beside Dudley Canal and an area of woodland designated as a Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation.

Better

Taylor Wimpey Midlands spokeswoman Anne Wallace said: "It's particularly satisfying to be able to transform an area which is in dire need of regeneration into something which is a genuine asset to the local community.

"The former Lloyds factory site had been vacant and disused for some time and it really wasn't doing justice to the area but now construction is well under way at Lockside Walk, its appearance is changing dramatically for the better."

Ward councillor Margaret Wilson says the clean up of the site was important for the image of the area. "The new homes have got to be an improvement," she said.

Early prices include three-bedroom houses at £158,995 and four-bedroom at £246,950.

Pub battle is stepped up by group

A GROUP campaigning to stop a Dudley pub from being replaced by a supermarket hope to get more than a thousand signatures on its petition.

The Save the Seven Stars group met in the Sedgley pub and restaurant last week and set up a committee to lead the fight.

Morrisons has approached pub owners Marston's about buying the building in Gospel End Road.

Nearly 100 people attended the meeting and agreed that the committee should meet Sedgley UKIP councillor Bill Etheridge to discuss the campaign.

Against

Mr Etheridge has said he is against the loss of the pub and is worried that a new supermarket could hit local independent traders.

Committee member Zoe Huddlestone, of Southview Road, said more than 800 people had already signed petition in shops in the centre of Sedgley and on the Brownswall estate in a bid to save the popular pub.

More than 480 people have also joined the Save the Seven Stars group on Facebook.

Mini is a memorial on wheels

George Marsh has restored and decorated his Mini car with poppies

A MINI enthusiast has come up with a unique way of paying his respects to the soldiers who lost their lives during the First World War — while also raising money for the Royal British Legion.

George Marsh, 59, from Kingswinford, bought the car for just £350 two years ago and has spent 18 months turning it into a tribute to the fallen soldiers of the war.

He had help from his son, Brian, a mechanic and car painter, who also owns a vintage Mini. They stripped it and re-painted the exterior, including a huge poppy on the roof and further poppies and images of soldiers on the sides. Mr Marsh said: "We're a bit Mini-mad . We have four in the family.

"We stripped it down so that it was just a shell with an engine and then did the panels and put it all back together. It was originally bought for my granddaughter but she wanted a modern car so I had it instead."

Anyone who wants to use the car for fundraising can contact him at georgermarsh@blueyonder.co.uk

Builder in court on duping charges

A BUILDER has appeared in court accused of conning customers, failing to complete jobs and refusing to return their money.

Richard Knight is alleged to have defrauded three residents in the Sedgley and Kingswinford areas, continuing his fraudulent trading for more than a year.

Knight, aged 45, of Pinfold Street, Darlaston, pleaded not guilty to eight charges of fraud and another of participating in a fraudulent business.

He also denied two charges of theft and another of engaging in an aggressive commercial practice.

Most of the alleged offences are said to have taken place in 2011, starting in February and continuing into early 2012.

One of the fraud charges alleges that to make a gain for himself he made a representation to the Express & Star which he knew was untrue and misleading namely that Muddy Boots and Gardens was a trading name of A Salter when the business was, in fact, his.

Recorder Derek Chinnery remanded him on bail until next May when appeared at Wolverhampton Crown Court for a trial scheduled to last two weeks.

Butterflies at celebrations

A PARTY with a butterfly theme has been held to celebrate the 35th anniversary of a disability club.

The event for Lye and Wollescote Disabled Club on August 2 included songs from Kenny and catering from Andor.

The club was founded by Harold Bolter in 1979, started with funds from a huge jumble sale, organised by friends and neighbours.

Monthly meetings are held with entertainment and a supper. Only five have been missed in 35 years due to bad weather and once because of a venue problem.

Lifeboat boost

COLLECTIONS for Brierley Hill and Kingswinford branch of lifeboat charity RNLI has raised £543. They took place on August 9. On October 17 members of the Aberdovey Lifeboat Crew will be at Dudley Kingswinford Rugby Club to talk about their work.

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Derelict pub to be site for housing

A DERELICT pub in Dudley, which has been lying empty for more than five years, will be demolished to make way for new homes after plans were approved.

Freebodies Tavern, St John's Road, will be knocked down and replaced with 10 two and three bedroom homes after consent was granted by Dudley Council.

People living near the boarded-up pub in Kates Hill have long called for it to be smartened up.

The building opposite St John's Church has been vandalised and there have been problems with fly-tipping.

Developer, Alps Developments Midlands Limited, will build five two-bed and five three-bed homes on the site, in three terraced blocks.

A report by council planning officer Vijay Kaul said: "This development offers an opportunity to remove the currently unsightly public house and surroundings."

It added: "The proposal respects the character and distinctiveness of the area and would not have a detrimental impact on the setting of either the Grade II listed St John's Church or the locally listed St John's church hall."

Charity trek to raise funds

A 67-YEAR-OLD man from Halesowen is going to be pushed to the limit as he treks up one of the highest mountains in the world for charity.

John Bendall, of Wassell Road, is climbing Mount Kilimanjaro to raise money for MacMillan Cancer Support, after a number of close friends battle the disease.

Mr Bendall has already raised around £3,500 but hopes to top £4,000 after completing his trek. He will be going on September 26 with other fundraisers. Visit www.justgiving.com/John-Bendall to donate.

Fault closes pool

THE leisure pool at Stourbridge's Crystal Leisure Centre was left out of action on Monday due to a fault was on one of the values responsible for maintaining adequate water levels. The small pool remained open for lane swimming only while repairs took place.

Images issued of man wanted over bus assault

An image of a man wanted over the

THIS man is being sought by police in connection with an assault on a woman on a bus.

CCTV images have been released in a bid to trace the man after the incident on the number 87 bus travelling through Dudley town centre.

Police say the man got on the double decker at the town's bus station at the same time as the 20-year-old women.

Officers believe he allowed her to get on in front of him before choosing to sit down next to her, despite there being several free seats downstairs.

The man got close to the young woman before leaning across and touching her leg.

She shouted out at him but he refused to move, forcing her to push past him to report the incident to the driver.

The woman got off the bus before making her way to a police station to report the crime.

Detective sergeant Emma Holder said: "It would appear that this young woman was targeted, as there were other seats available on the bus.

"We want to trace the man captured on CCTV so that he can be spoken with regarding the allegation.

"Anyone who recognises the man is urged to come forward with his name or encourage him to present himself to police."

Police say the incident happened shortly after 7.40pm on May 31 but have only just released details of it.

The man wanted by police

A-level effort pays off as students celebrate results

By Heather Large and Charlie Benton

STUDENTS across Dudley borough have been celebrating another bumper crop of A-level results, although the pass rate nationally has fallen for the first time in more than 30 years.

Despite the drop, the proportion of results with the highest grades across the country has risen.

A decision to scrap the January exam session, which has cut the chances students have to re-sit papers, coupled with a move by students to opt for traditional subjects favoured by universities, is likely to have had an impact on results, experts say.

At Bishop Milner Catholic School, Dudley, there was a pass rate of 99 per cent with 38.4 per cent of students achieving grades A* to B.

The top performing student was Kishan Patel, who achieved three A*s and two As and will be studying medicine at the University of Birmingham

Successes

Sixth form progress leader David Handy said: "On behalf of the directors and staff of the college we would like to congratulate all of our sixth form students on their examination results."

At King Edward VI College, Stourbridge, there was a pass rate of 99.1 per cent with 60 per cent getting A*, A or B grades.

Principal Sharon Phillips said it was a day to celebrate the successes of the students and paid tribute to the hard work of both students and staff.

At Hagley Catholic High School there was also a 99 per cent pass rate with 35 per cent of grades being A*to B.

Headteacher Ted Hammond said: "Once again our A-level students have done both themselves and their families proud. Their commitment, combined with that of my highly professional and dedicated teaching staff, persist in proving a winning combination."

Birmingham Metropolitan College was celebrating an overall pass rate of 95.3 per cent.

Among those with top grades was Sanjeevan Jheeta, aged 18 from Oldbury, who attends the Stourbridge campus. "I knew I wanted to come to Stourbridge to study A-levels and most of my friends came here," he said.

"I got an A in maths, A* in accounts and a B in business studies which has secured me a place at Leicester University to do a maths degree so that I can become an actuary – someone who calculates insurance risks and premiums."

At Halesowen College 30 subjects achieved a pass rate of 100 per cent, including biology, French and history.

Principal Keith Bate said he was proud and delighted and congratulated the highly professional and committed staff who had provided the most effective support available so that students could achieve their aims.

Among the students achieving high grades was Ryan Asbury, who got an A* in photography and As in fine art and graphic communication.

Dudley College's students were told their performance over the past two years had delivered an exceptional set of results by achieving a 98 per cent pass rate – equal to the overall national rate.

The class of 2014 achieved a 100 per cent pass rate in 27 of the 33 subjects taught with students securing 100 per cent pass rates in music, fine art, drama and dance. While students studying English, history, sociology, law, economics and psychology have also been very successful.

Principal Lowell Williams said: "We're delighted that we've maintained the 98 per cent A-level pass rate we established last year. To see an increase in the number of subjects where our students are securing a 100 per cent pass rate demonstrates the commitment and dedication of students and staff alike.

"I, along with the staff, would like to congratulate our A-level students knowing that their time with us has given them a solid foundation on which to build a successful future and career."

Chris Rogers, headteacher at Edgecliff High School, Kinver, said: "We are very pleased with our hardworking students. We moved the sixth form into a brand-new refurbished building and it really encouraged the sixth form students to get more involved."

"The new centre opened in Easter and it has really spurred the students on to do better than they were doing already and made them feel more rewarded, which is obviously fantastic."

Jumping for joy . . . students from Edgecliff School, Kinver, celebrate after receiving their A-level results

NEWS IN BRIEF

Crackdown over problem parking

A CRACKDOWN on problem parking at a Dudley business park has been announced. Cars have been clogging up the roads on the Castlegate site during the day and evenings.

Council bosses said vehicles left by visitors to restaurants and the Showcase Cinema, as well as other businesses on roads including Castlegate Way are causing a nuisance. It has prompted fears the routes could be blocked making it harder for emergency services to access the site.

Dudley Council plans to introduce tougher restrictions to stop road parking .

Chippy reopens after car crash

A FISH and chip shop in Dudley has reopened a week after a car drove through its front window.

Asa Singh, who owns Mandy's Tasty Plaice with his wife Mandy, said: "It was a miracle no-one was hurt. We have been working around the clock to get reopen and we have finally managed it."

The front window of the store in Commonside, also known as the Tasty Fish Bar, was smashed when the BMW mounted the pavement.

Cannabis plants seized at house

SIXTY cannabis plants were seized in a drugs swoop by police in Dudley.

Police seized the plants during a search of a house in Birmingham New Road, but nobody was present and no arrest were made.

West Midlands Police spokeswoman, Sarah Buxton, said a warrant under the misuse of drugs act took place around 10am on Sunday. Anyone with information should call 101.

Hospital marks its 20th anniversary

HOSPITAL staff have celebrated a milestone. Rowley Regis Community Hospital has turned 20 after being opened in 1994 by the Duchess of Kent.

Members of the board at Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust visited the Moor Lane site to share a cake with doctors, nurses and other workers.

Power cut strikes

SOME 600 homes were affected by a power cut in Coseley on Monday. Western Power Distribution said it was caused by a faulty underground cable. Power was lost at 1pm but it was back within an hour.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

YOU have just qualified as a heart surgeon. You may owe £100,000 in college fees but you have a glittering career ahead, saving lives and earning a fortune. Then you pick up the paper this week and learn that Imperial College London is developing a new gene therapy which may cure heart failure with a simple injection. When good news is bad news.

THE Tories' latest brainwave is to knock on the doors of terraced houses, ascertain that the occupants are hard-working folk and then spit in their faces. That's not strictly true. What the Tories are actually doing is inviting White Dee of Benefits Street to be a guest speaker at their conference. But it amounts to the same thing.

IN Scotland Votes (BBC2) Andrew Neil wasted far too much time agonising about what would happen to Trident and the UK nuclear deterrent if an independent Scotland ordered all nuclear warheads off its territory. The filing cabinets of Whitehall are stuffed full of contingency plans for everything from the Russians landing in Oban to France annexing Dover. If Alex Salmond's government declared a nuclear-free Scotland, the contingency plans would be dusted off and the Trident submarines would slip silently under the Clyde, reappearing a few days later in the mothballed pens which have been ready for them for the past 50 years. I'm guessing somewhere on the east coast of the United States but this is all Top Secret so you mustn't tell anyone.

A BIBLE basher refers me to the Book of Zechariah which predicts the end of the world shortly after Israel is invaded by "a power from the north" which he says could be Russia, Iran or Isis. That's the great thing about prophecies. You write them in 500 BC and 2,514 years later they finally come right (or more likely, wrong).

WE woke to the news that Robin Williams was dead. If you switched on the radio and caught the tributes before you realised who they were talking about, you'd never have guessed the dead person was a Hollywood celebrity. They said he was kind, sweet and humble. There's not a lot of that in Tinseltown.

TOLD you so. Already, more than 200,000 of the 800,000 souvenir poppies on display at the Tower of London have been snapped up. This is going to end in tears, with thousands of disappointed folk leaving it too late.

ONE of the nastiest forms of prejudice is the assumption that everyone else is prejudiced. The former boxing promoter Frank Maloney reveals he is undergoing sex-change treatment and is now a woman called Kellie. Virtually all the coverage on TV and print seems to assume that hordes of wicked, bigoted people will scorn Maloney and either laugh in her face or spit on her in the street. In fact, the reaction to Maloney's sex change has been generally kind, understanding and perhaps a little curious.

SO in the great scheme of things what should we worry about? Is it a) One silly Ukip politician telling young people to study Adolf Hitler's public-speaking technique or b) 20,000 people attending an anti-Israel rally in London and thus giving comfort to Hamas, whose aim is to finish the Holocaust that Adolf Hitler began?

THAT national treasure Lionel Blair is celebrating 65 years in showbiz and admits he is hurt by occasional barbs, including the running jokes about him on I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue (Radio 4). Only a few weeks ago chairman Jack Dee quipped that when Lionel was born they broke the mould – just to be on the safe side.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Tunnels tourism scheme is refused

PLANS to turn Cold War bunkers into a major attraction have been turned down.

Drakelow Tunnels, near Kinver, were excavated during the Second World War and used to manufacture machinery.

The tunnels would have been used as a regional seat of government in the event of a nuclear attack during the Cold War and were only rendered surplus to requirement in the 1990s.

Proposals to renovate the tunnels to create a museum dedicated to its history have been refused by the Wyre Forest District Council's planning department.

As well as the museum, a gift shop, coffee shop and six homes would have been built under proposals from site owners Quercus Ilex SA. But the planning department have turned down the scheme citing concerns over potential traffic problems. The decision, taken by planning officers, said there is 'insufficient information' about the way staff and visitors will be able to travel into the attraction.

Officers claimed there would be problems caused to nearby heritage sites. Concerns focused on potential harm to a small hill fort on Drakelow Hill which is an ancient monument and thetunnels themselves. They added: "The design, layout and scale of the dwellings proposed would fail to adhere to the established character of this rural location or have due regard to the nature of the heritage assets."

Quercus Ilex SA was unavailable for comment.

Health jobs at risk in drive to cut costs

JOBS are at risk at Dudley's hospital trust as part of widespread review of non-clinical posts as it looks to save £12 million.

Bosses are reviewing the positions of temporary staff, those on fixed-term contracts, and bank and agency workers.

They are also looking at reducing overtime and recruitment to non-clinical vacancies to claw back costs.

Bosses are battling to balance the books as they need to save up to £12m in the wake of Government funding cuts.

Chief executive Paula Clark said the review would cover posts 'furthest away from frontline patient care'.

It's not known yet how many jobs could be at risk.

A 'mutually agreed resignation scheme' has been launched which will continue throughout September, which means workers can leave their posts in return for a set severance payment.

Paula Clark, chief executive of Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, which runs Russells Hall Hospital, said: "In common with all NHS trusts in England we are doing everything we can to meet the Government's four per cent efficiency savings while at the same time providing high quality patient care.

"Pay is our biggest cost and so we are looking at ways of reducing staffing while, at the same time, protecting permanent staff

By Heather Large

employed by the Trust. We are reviewing non-clinical posts furthest away from frontline patient care and these include temporary staff, those on fixed term contracts, and bank and agency as well as looking at reducing overtime and recruitment to non-clinical vacancies.

"The Trust is also offering staff the opportunity to apply for a Mutually Agreed Resignation Scheme during August and September 2014. This scheme allows individual employees to leave their employment for a set severance payment.

"Our focus will be on the impact on patients and, therefore, no decision will be made without each proposed post loss going through our Quality Impact Assessment Panel to ensure no cuts will be made if they impact on patient care and safety."

She added: "We do not know until the review process is complete what areas will be affected. "

Myths inspire young readers

THOUSANDS of children have caught the reading bug and signed up to the annual summer reading challenge in Dudley borough libraries.

So far 2,226 children are taking on the challenge of reading six library books during the summer holidays.

The challenge, an initiative now in its 16th year, was launched in July and runs in libraries until September 14.

Open to children aged four to 11, this year's event is themed around a mythical maze, which will challenge children to find their way round a labyrinth from the world of legend and mythology.

Memorial is rediscovered

Les Bate, left, who helped to restore the plaque with teacher Paul Reynolds who found it

THEY lay hidden away for years underneath a school's stage, the names of six fallen heroes.

Now, after the chance discovery of a memorial to the former students of a Stourbridge school who died in the First World War, a teacher is hoping to find the families of those whose names are inscribed.

Paul Reynolds, a geography teacher at Redhill School, was taking part in a production when he spotted the wooden plaque.

On it are the names of fallen heroes who attended Lye's Valley Road School, which joined The Girls High School in the 1970s to form Redhill.

Mr Reynolds said: "I was underneath the stage waiting to make my entry, running through my lines in my head, when I saw it underneath a sheet. It could have been there from the 1970s."

Although Mr Reynolds has managed to unearth some information about the men, he is now hoping relatives of theirs can be found.

Display at museum marks war centenary

A NEW exhibition has been unveiled in Dudley to mark the 100th anniversary of the start of the First World War.

Dudley Museum and Art Gallery has opened a display of treasured family items which tell the story of life on the front line and at home.

The exhibition was unveiled by Mayor of Dudley Mayor, Councillor Margaret Aston, and features a mock High Street with shop fronts, showing life as it was a century ago.

Visitors to the museum on St James' Road and can walk through the High Street and see the realities of war as the exhibition features a painted battlefield, soldier's dug out, nurse's station, mine and a trench complete with sandbags, wooden boarded floors and bomb flashes.

The Mayor was joined by those who had loaned personal items to the exhibition and on display are hundreds of items including medals, original war poems and a discharge letter for a British POW from a German hospital.

The families who offered items for the display were invited to tea in the Mayor's parlour before they has a private tour of the exhibition ahead of the public opening.

Canal festival at the locks

DUDLEY Canal Trust and Worcester-Birmingham & Droitwich Canals Society are organising the biennial Parkhead Canal Festival.

The event takes place at Parkhead Locks on the Dudley Canal on September 27 and 28 from 10am to 5pm each day.

People attending will be able to take boat trips into the Dudley Canal Tunnel. There will also be a boating skills competition, horse-drawn boats and a display of classic vehicles. The trust, celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, will also be putting on a real ale tent.

Jobs provided

A VEHICLE parts group with a base in the Black Country has taken on more than 500 workers who lost their jobs in the collapse of Unipart Automotive. The Parts Alliance ha a network of 278 parts depots across the UK with its main warehouse in Smethwick.

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Tenants get house swap help sessions

RESIDENTS across Dudley borough are being invited to a series of events to get more information on how to swap their homes.

The Let's Swap events are designed for Dudley Council and housing association tenants who are looking for a larger property due to over-crowding and those looking to downsize.

It will allow them to find out more about the mutual exchange service and how it can help them avoid the housing waiting list.

A housing officer will talk through the process of registering and searching for a property and attendees will be able to view available properties, including those outside the borough, online.

Councillor Gaye Partridge, cabinet member for housing, said: "These events are an ideal opportunity for tenants to find out about the Let's Swap service.

"This scheme can save those tenants who wish to move to another property from having to use the traditional method of joining the waiting lists.
"

The events will be held from10am until 1pm today (Thursday) at Brierley Hill Library, and at Stourbridge Library on August 28 and September 1.

Search film to be screened

THE charity Rethink Mental Illness will screen a documentary in Dudley about 27-year-old Jonny Benjamin's search to find the stranger who stopped him taking his own life.

The film, called Finding Mike, will be shown free at Rethink Dudley, King Street, on Tuesday from 6pm to 7pm. Refreshments will be served.

Sarah Hill, from Rethink Mental Illness in Dudley, said: "I think that Jonny is an inspirational character and want to raise as much awareness as possible about his Finding Mike cam-

Relatives sought

A CORONER is hoping to find the family members of a woman who died on August 8.

Dorothy Charles, aged 61, died at home in Enfield Road, Rowley Regis. Any relations should contact coroner's officer Elaine Huckfield on 0845 352 7490.

Two wanted over car robbery from woman

Donavon Wilson

DETECTIVES have released images of two men they want to trace after a woman was assaulted and robbed of her car outside a Coseley pub.

Police want to speak to 20-year-old Omari Maitland, from Wolverhampton, and Donavon Wilson, 19, from Sedgley, in connection with the terrifying car-jacking in Robert Wynd, Woodcross.

The attack took place outside the Horse and Jockey, when a car went into the back of the 38-year-old woman's vehicle.

As she got out to exchange details, she was pushed to the floor and her attackers fled in her car.

Catherine Hickman of West Midlands Police said the robbery took place on June 18 and that their inquiries had led them to search for the pair.

"A small hatchback ran into the back of her car outside the Horse & Jockey at around 2.40pm," she added.

Trace

"The woman got out to exchange details but was pushed to the floor by one of the men from the other car, who then jumped into her vehicle and drove off down Robert Wynd towards Woodcross park."

Detectives now want to speak to Maitland and Wilson in connection with the crime and have attempted to trace the pair at various addresses.

The details of the cars involved have not been released.

Anyone with information as to their whereabouts should contact Wolverhampton Police on 101 or speak to Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Omari Maitland

Action call over claims of rats in overgrown garden

By Charlie Benton

FURIOUS residents have signed a petition calling for action on a Netherton house which they say has become so overgrown with vegetation it is attracting rats.

The group has handed it to their councillor, Bryan Cotterill.

The residents, who all live in or around Bowling Green Road, said they were petitioning Dudley Council to do something about the private house, which they say has been in its current state for almost 20 years.

Mrs Sylvia Townsend, who lives next door to the property, said: "The house has been like that for as long as I can remember.

"The garden is wildly overgrown and whilst it has always been a bit of an eyesore, the rats are just the final nail in the coffin."

Mrs Townsend said if the house was a council property the tenant might have been evicted or at least forced to tidy up the garden, but as it is a private residence he is under no such obligation.

Council bosses said they had sent vermin specialists to the property but have seen no sign of rat droppings which they say means there cannot be rats there.

Delivery

But Mrs Townsend said: "How can they know? They just sent a man round who took some pictures with his phone.

"I've had numerous people tell me that they have seen the rats and we even had a delivery woman who said she saw one run across her path. All these people can't be imagining things."

She said more 18 people had signed her petition.

Councillor Cotterill said: "I completely understand Mrs Townsend's concerns and I am willing to help. The garden is completely overgrown and even if there were no rats, the owner of the property should not be allowed to leave it in such a state.

"It is completely overgrown and something must be done.

"I think many people will have sympathy for Mrs Townsend and the council should, too, because they should ask themselves: Would I want this next to myself or even my mother? The answer should be no."

Byan Cotterill with Karen Taylor, Sylvia Townsend, Phyllis Rowley and

The garden of the house is overgrown with grass and ivy

Dudley Council says there are no signs of rat droppings

Thieves smash into football club

BOSSES at Halesowen Town football club have spoken of their distress and anger after vandals broke into their ground wreaking havoc.

Thousands of pounds of damage have been caused after the thieves forced their way into The Grove Stadium.

Vandals smashed their way into the club shop, the James Grove lounge and the press box, kicking open doors and breaking through windows.

It came as the non-league club was preparing for its first home game of the season on Tuesday against Belper Town in the Northern Premier League Premier Division. Repairs will start soon as club officials look to increase security around the ground.

Volunteers told how they arrived to start cleaning up the Old Hawne Lane ground on Monday ahead of the game and found doors to the buildings broken.

The door leading to the shop had been smashed and officials have been making checks to see if any stock, vital to raise revenue for the Yeltz, had been taken.

A window had been forced on the James Grove Lounge, where fans and players meet before and after games, allowing the vandals to get inside. Cash, televisions and other items were taken in the raid, which is thought to have happened sometime overnight Sunday into Monday.

The press box, which is part of the Harry Rudge stand, was also smashed open.

In a statement, the club said: "As most fans or supporters know the club is run by hard working volunteers who give up their spare time to move the Yeltz forwards, we are all deeply saddened by this news."

Rob Lloyd, who runs the Friends of The Grove group and fundraising draws, said everyone was shocked.

NEWS IN BRIEF

School reunion to mark 50 years

FORMER pupils from Dudley Girls' High School are invited to a reunion being held next month.

It has been organised for pupils who started at the school 50 years ago — in September 1964. The event will take place at The Brambles, Dudley, on September 13 at 7.30pm.

Former students are invited to raise a glass to the passing of 50 years, to enjoy a buffet and a catch-up with each old friends and a half century's worth of news. For further information or to book a place call (01384) 270403.

Power to helpers s at museum tidy up

VOLUNTEERS have been tidying the grounds at the Black Country Living Museum.

The team of 11 Npower employees from Oldbury helped weed the gardens and stain the train crossing at the site in Tipton Road.

Team leader Constance Kane said: "We had such a great day and it was fantastic to be helping out at the museum. "

Npower operates an extensive volunteering programme with Community Service Volunteers.

Building society to stage charity ball

DUDLEY Building Society is holding a charity ball to raise funds for the Midlands Air ambulance next month.

The event at the Copthorne Hotel, Brierley Hill, on Saturday, September 13 at 7pm, will include a two-course meal and music from Chris Passey and His Little Big Band.

Tickets are priced £25 from the society's branches or by calling 07702 972445.

Homes plan for former club site

PLANS to demolish a former club in Dudley have been lodged.

Twenty-two homes will be built on the site of the Woodside club in Stourbridge Road, Holly Hall.

Paul Walker Property as submitted the proposals, which to include a 30 -space car park, for two blocks of apartments and a block of terraced houses.

Blaze hits garage

A GRASS fire damaged a wooden garage in Coseley. It broke out near to an electrical substation but firefighters managed to prevent it from spreading in Webb Street just after 5pm on Monday.

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Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

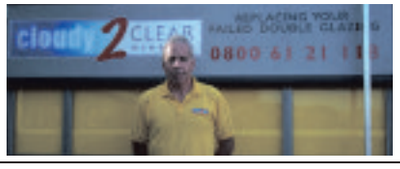
It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on **0800 61 21 118** and he'll be happy to help!



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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews

MIRANDA Hart is one of the funniest comedy stars of our time. When you come down to it, she is just about the only purveyor of simple, funny, family friendly comedy around at the moment.

After all, who else is doing mainstream comedy these days? All we get at the moment are the tired old American imports, foul-mouthed public school stand ups and endless dreary panel games populated by the usual circuit of posh boys.

Which makes it all the more depressing is that Miranda Hart has just been announced as the new host of the Generation Game. Let's be honest. There are lots of shows from the 1970s that are well worth reviving, but the Generation Game isn't one of them.

There was only one host who truly made it work, and no, he didn't wear a toupe. Larry Grayson was good. Sharp as a knife, quick witted and entertaining.

Larry Grayson's Generation Game was the perfect warm up to Saturday-night viewing, with Mike Yarwood, Juliet Bravo, or whatever else on afterwards. But take away Grayson, and all you really had was a few middle-aged housewives making a pig's ear of pottery or cake decorating or whatever.

Which is not really much of an improvement on watching oddballs murdering popular tunes of the past decade or so. Or washed-up politicians and minor celebrities trying their hand at the tango. It really is tragic.

Miranda, if you've got any sense, think again. Stick to what you're good at. Writing sitcoms. And leave the Generation Game where it truly belongs. To the past generation.

❒❒❒

AFTER what seems like one of the shortest close-seasons in years, the football season is well and truly back with us.

Normally, this is a time of hope and optimism, of looking forward to the new season. And indeed my team, Aston Villa, made a reasonably solid start, notching up a difficult 1-0 victory away to Stoke City.

So why is it I can't ever remember going into a new season feeling quite so underwhelmed? Well maybe it is something to do with a statistic in a quiz by the Football League Trust last week. Essentially, it asked, if all the teams in the Premier League during the 2012/2013 season were ranked in order of how much they spent on players, how would that differ from the actual league table at the end of the season?

Depressingly, the answer is that one solitary team actually performed better on the field than they did in the transfer window. Or put it another way, it is almost entirely down to money.

Going into the new season at the weekend, which was the lowest-spending side in the Premier League? Aston Villa. Perhaps you will understand my trepidation . . .

Fizzog Flash Mob in Stourbridge Town Centre

Dressed up for Black Country Day celebrations

The Fizzogs and others with Black Country bus

Dancing grannies' steps to stardom

America is beckoning for booty-shaking Fizzogs after video goes viral, as Katy-Rose Meaney reports

HOBBLING along, supported by walking sticks, a group of four cardigan-clad pensioners could have you fooled that they are simply your average grannies.

But these booty-shaking, hip wiggling performers, who could give Beyonce a run for her money, are now in talks with American TV producers after a video of them performing went viral.

Popular Black Country entertainers The Fizzogs became a worldwide internet sensation after a video of the group entertaining at Stourbridge carnival was posted on YouTube and on social networking site Facebook.

Humbling

Now the Dudley-based theatre group are in talks with TV stations in America after a film of the dancers hip wiggling to Beyonce's Single Ladies and Gangnam Style received more than a million shares worldwide.

The stars behind the blue rinse wigs and walking sticks are Sue Hawkins, Deb Nicholls, Jacky Fellows and Emma Rollason from Fizzog Productions and the group have been making plans to take their 'Ode Folk' routine over the pond.

Deb Nicholls, 42 from Wollaston, said the attention is incredible but very humbling. She said: " We have had a lot of interest from America and we are in talks with a screen writer in the TV industry. Nothing has been confirmed yet but we have been told our video is streaming through the network channels over there and we have been asked when we are coming over."

The dancing grannies, whose youtube video of themselves went viral online

She added: "We would absolutely love to go over there and perform. Before talks started we sent our video to the producers on the The Ellen DeGeneres Show. To appear on that would be amazing."

Sue Hawkins, who started Fizzog Productions 14 years ago said she couldn't believe the attention the video, filmed on July 6, has received.

The 42-year-old from Wordsley said: "It has just been phenomenal. The number of likes and shares is just crazy and it has gone all over the world. I can't believe so many people have seen us perform."

Miss Nicholls added: "It is overwhelming because we have worked so hard for 14 years just to get a local reputation. We were shocked when we saw it had 58 likes but it has gone crazy. My sister was tracking the popularity of it and it was 64 shares per second."

The dance group are getting messages from all over the world and Miss Nicholls said: " It is very humbling to hear someone from Texas say we have made their day and made their whole office laugh. People from across the globe want more and more and that is amazing but we are local girls and to get more offers for local work too has been great. "We are very busy but our success is great for the area not just for us."

Their worldwide attention started when Lucy Rutherford saw the group perform in Stourbridge and uploaded her video online.

The next day she was getting emails, notifications and friend requests from people across the world. She said: "I just put it up to show friends and family really. Then, I was getting notifications left, right and centre from people across the world. They made me laugh so much on the day and they clearly are making people laugh all over the world now."

The video has been shared almost a million times on Facebook and an American blog featuring the dancing trio has had more than 2.7million likes.

Excited

Dave Harrison, press officer for Fizzog productions, said: "The interest in the group has just been phenomenal, the video has been shared across Europe, in America and China. Now that is what you call putting the Black Country on the map."

Gaz Sawers, co-organiser and founder Black Country Festival said: "I have known the Fizzogs for some time and I am very excited for them and wish them every success. It is amazing news that they are being recognised and are in demand around the world following on from their performances as part of the Black Country Day celebrations."

He added: "They really are putting the Black Country on the map and I am very proud of them."

The dancing grannies is just one of the routines the theatre group perform and before they can consider plans to jet off to the US, the group has local performances lined up, including performing at the Black Country Living Museum on weekends throughout August.

WEEK IN POLITICS

with Daniel Wainwright

UKIP'S Bill Etheridge learned a rather valuable lesson last week about public speaking – that it's generally a bad idea to say anything that could be construed as positive about Adolf Hitler.

Ironically, it was a seminar on effective public speaking that saw his comments rounded on by his party's critics.

Why the West Midlands MEP decided it would be a good idea to even bring up the Nazi leader at all, let alone suggest budding politicians look at his speaking style, only he can say.

And I've never known any modern politician win a seat by walking up and down during a speech and fixing the audience with his or her stare the way Mr Etheridge was said to have described Hitler.

Far from being 'desperate' for politicians to start talking, as Mr Etheridge says those who listened to Hitler were, these days people are more likely to stand up and walk out or worse.

No-one hangs on David Cameron or Ed Miliband's words. Every time they tweet anything the first response is usually from someone calling them, respectively, Dishface and Beaker.

But has this damaged UKIP? Not particularly, if online reaction is anything to go by.Those who were against UKIP remained resolute on that, taking this story as further evidence that they do not deserve a seat in the Commons.

Yet those who were already part of the so-called 'earthquake' of the European and council elections in May were content with Mr Etheridge's side of the story and rallied round to condemn the Mail on Sunday for its coverage.

Every Black Country council is now under the control of Labour. Walsall's Tories were forced from power in a special meeting called after a by-election gave Labour back the 30 seats it was on after May's local elections.

The death after those elections of leader Tim Oliver left Labour on 29 and meant a rainbow alliance – albeit a rainbow missing any shades of red – of Tories, Lib Dems, UKIP and independence voted for the status quo.

Labour ended up paying to fly three of its councillors back from their summer holidays for the crucial vote.

Politically, it might not be the worst thing for the Tories. They would have continued to get stick for staying in control after being reduced to just over a third of the seats.

And now they get to campaign for the next election against an incumbent Labour party that won't yet have got its feet under the table. At least, that's what I'd say if I were the Conservatives and putting a brave face on it.

Labour has the advantage of being both incumbent locally and in opposition in Westminster. And that's certainly done it no harm in Wolverhampton, Sandwell and Dudley these past few years.

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Bill Etheridge right not to resign

BILL Etheridge is correct in not resigning as a UKIP MEP and Dudley councillor.

It is clear his words have been taken out of context. Mr Etheridge has voiced regrets mentioning Hitler as an example of a charismatic orator.

Yet throughout history the power of oratory has brought nations to their knees but it has also inspired nations to deeds of great valour; Hitler in Nazi Germany and Sir Winston Churchill in Britain. Both were indeed outstanding orators.

Churchill himself stated: "Of all the talents bestowed upon men, none is so precious as the gift of oratory."

Other amazing men whose speeches reverberate throughout the ages are Martin Luther King, Mahatma Gandhi, Abraham Lincoln and Jesus Christ.

Indeed Bill Etheridge included Martin Luther King, Ronald Reagan, Hitler and Tony Blair in his list – all men who swayed nations – in some cases for good and in some cases for ill. In today's world our freedom of speech is still precious.

S BARTON, Stourbridge

Hard but still time for 'loff'

I READ with interest the article on Tommy Mundon, written by Mark Andrews, which appeared in the Chronicle on July 31.

However, I cannot agree with the statement that 'His act was rooted in a rose-tinted image of a Black Country which never existed'.

The Black Country portrayed by Tommy did exist and many of his anecdotes were drawn around real people, places and happenings. Embroidered, no doubt, but nevertheless based on reality. I grew up just down the road from Tommy and listening to his stories I could often recognise how they originated.

Yes, in the post war years times were hard but the Black Country character meant that people made the best of it and still managed to have a 'loff'.

D LAYTON, Stourbridge

Don't be fooled by this smear

ONLY the seriously gullible are going to be fooled by the clumsy attempt by the Tory gutter press to smear Bill Etheridge and through him, UKIP, over his reference to Adolf Hitler's public speaking style in a recent speech.

It's a sure sign that there are local council elections and a General Election on the horizon and that the main parties are running scared.

Mr Etheridge has rightly complained that his reference to Hitler was taken out of context, that he mentioned other prominent figures, including a former British Prime Minister, in his speech and that the attacks on him are 'political opportunism', which of course they blatantly are.

If any mention of Hitler holds so much taboo, why do numerous Freeview channels churn out hours of documentaries about him and his regime every day, without one word of comment or complaint from the national gutter press?

R A SARGEANT, Dudley

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
Dudley Chronicle, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

E-MAIL
Dudley.chron@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

It's costs before people for police

I SEE West Mercia and Warwickshire Police are closing stations and the public can now stand outside the closed down stations, press a button on a blue box and speak via intercom to a member of staff who is sitting in a warm environment whilst the queue of people waiting to use the intercom waiting in the pouring rain, or whatever the inclement weather may be.

Do these people who make these wonderful decisions ever think about the public? It's not about money, cut backs, statistics or targets when a person attends a station to report an incident that person wants to see a police officer and feel safe when reporting an incident.

How times have moved on, it used to be police officers who used such devices to keep in touch with their stations.

We now see fewer officers on the street, to make contact, we can phone and arrange an appointment, which means days pass by after any incident (unless of course it's an emergency or the incident is taking place at that time). We can even e-mail a crime to the police, so the chances are it will not get investigated but don't worry as long as you have a crime number all will be well in the world!

It does appear like the police are trying to cut the public out of their equation as long as the costs are in line with government guidelines with saving money.

P LOWE, Brierley Hill

King Arthur pub adds to the character

THE King Arthur pub on the Birmingham New Road, Dudley, is being threatened with demolition.

It is claimed that it is not viable as a public house.

However, when it was a carvery, it had no lack of customers.

Since the Ivy House pub was replaced with a fast food outlet, it is now the only building with character on this approach to Dudley.

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The Rapide offering joy flights at Halfpenny Green airfield

The Rapide – flights over its former base

'Doris' the wartime Dominie with Pilot Officer Sid Walker at High Ercall

The Rapide at its former base which was at Pendeford

The Rapide at Halfpenny Green into which a parachutist crashed after jumping from another Rapide

Chance for mint view from historic aircraft

MEMORY LANE

By Alec Brew

HISTORIC airliner flights over Perton and Pendeford are on offer this Bank Holiday weekend.

As a new experience at the Autumn Wings & Wheels Fly-in at Halfpenny Green, on Sunday and Monday, Air Atlantique will be offering not just flights over the Severn Valley Railway, as usual, but also the chance to fly over all the four Wolverhampton airfields, Pendeford, Perton, Dunstall Park as well as Halfpenny Green itself.

Links

The aircraft they will be using will be the classic De Havilland Rapide biplane, which has historic local links to three of the airfields. Famously, for two years in the 50s, Don Everall Aviation actually offered scheduled airline flights from Pendeford Airport to the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man using the Rapide, and Midland Metal Spinning based their own Rapide for many years at the airport.

A Rapide, registration, G-AIDL, which was also based at Pendeford, and owned by Fox's Glacier Mints for a while, will be the very aircraft offering the scenic flights.

During the War the Rapide was used extensively by the RAF, renamed the Dominie, and several dropped in to RAF Perton, including one carrying the Air Minister Sir Archiebald Sinclair. The pilot landed to ask where he was!

The Rapides were also extensively used to collect ferry pilots, who had delivered aircraft locally, to airfields all over Staffordshire and Shropshire.

Unique

A Rapide, G-AHAG, was also based at Halfpenny Green for a long time, used by the parachute club, and famously one parachutist, named Mike Boulton, jumped from another, visiting, Rapide, and crashed through the roof of G-AHAG which was flying below.

One of the very few occasions where someone has taken off in one aircraft and landed in another !

The flights will be less exciting than this, but the Rapide does offer a marvellous experience of stately airline travel, and should offer a unique aerial view of either Perton and Pendeford, or the beautiful Severn Valley, all for only £75, booked on the day, or in advance via alecbrew@hotmail.co.uk

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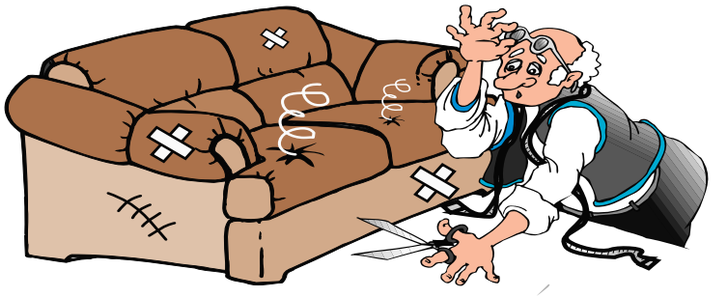

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Ambulance chiefs back adrenaline study start

A MEDICAL trial that could see more patients surviving a cardiac arrest has won the backing of West Midlands Ambulance Service.

Officials say while the numbers of people who suffer a cardiac arrest are relatively small, the survival rate for an episode out of hospital is just eight per cent. Guidelines used by all ambulance services recommend giving adrenaline during resuscitation.

But there are concerns the drug may cause severe brain damage and may not help overall survival at all.

Warwick Medical School is leading a new trial of around 8,000 patients this autumn after concerns over adrenaline were raised.

During the study ambulance staff in the West Midlands, as well as London, Wales, and on the south coast and north-east of England will inject roughly half of the the patients with adrenaline and the others with a salt solution placebo.

West Midlands Ambulance Service said the work could ultimately save the lives of 'hundreds of patients'. But there have been some concerns given as patients taking part in the study will be unable to give consent as they will be unconscious during treatment.

by Andrew Turton

Paramedics and other clinical staff will also be unaware which patients received the placebo.

West Midlands Ambulance Service medical director Dr Andy Carson said: "Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and defibrillation will still be used as normal in the treatment of cardiac arrest.

"Unfortunately, there have been a number of misunderstandings about the trial which have led to unnecessary concern for a number of patients.

"It is therefore important to note that patients with other conditions requiring adrenaline, such as anaphylaxis, will continue to receive the adrenaline that they need.

Life-saving gear is put in Asda stores

Anne Foley, the West Midlands Ambulance Trust's community defibrillator facilitator, left ,with members of staff

IF you shop at Asda in the Black Country, now, you can be safe in the knowledge that there will be someone on hand, if you drop.

Defibrillators are being installed in all of Asda's stores throughout the country in conjunction with the British Heart Foundation.

Anne Foley, the West Midlands Ambulance Trust's community defibrillator facilitator, has been training Asda staff in all 14 stores in the Black Country.

Andy Jeynes, the Trust's Community Response Manager, said: "Anne has worked really hard to get all 14 stores up and running with their new defibrillators.

"If a customer or staff member were to ever suffer a cardiac arrest, each store now has a number of staff trained to use the device and administer CPR. "Early CPR increases the chances of surviving a cardiac arrest and by having a defibrillator in such a busy place like ASDA it can only be a good thing."

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Museum visit for Potter star Warwick and family

Movie star Warwick Davis and son Harrison at the Black Country Living Museum filming for TV travel show Weekend Escapes

IT might not be the obvious choice for a film star's family holiday but Warwick Davis has brought his wife and children to the Black Country.

The Harry Potter and Star Wars actor was at the Black Country Living Museum last week filming the latest series of his show Weekend Escapes.

The show sees 44-year-old Mr Davis and his family travel around Britain in his camper van to sample the best of the countries attractions, and is aired on ITV.

The Life's Too Short star was seen by visitors to the museum donning period costumes and being filmed talking to the camera. He was at the museum with his wife, Samantha, and two children Harrison, 11, and Annabelle, 16.

They took part in activities at the museum, including a ride on vintage vehicle, visiting the St James' School Victorian classroom, Gregory's General Store, the Hardware Store, and also took part in street games.

They also ate some of the museum's famous traditional fish and chips.

Fans waited outside the museum for the chance to get an autograph and picture with the star.

Kim Hunter, aged 30, from Dudley, was there with her sister Jenny Fisher.

Kim said: "We had come down to sort out a day out here but we heard that he was here so we've waited a couple of hours to meet him. I'm a big fan of his from watching Willow when I was a kid. I can't believe I had my photo taken with him."

One of the museum's staff, Jon Drew, 32, who is a learning programmer, filmed a scene with Davis. Mr Drew said: "It was such a great honour to actually film a scene with my childhood hero. "

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Lenny is in a spin over his debut at The Rep

Lenny Henry with his co-stars in the stage premiere of Rudy's Rare Records Joivan Wade, left, and Larrington Walker

ACTOR and comedian Lenny Henry will be going back to his roots when he takes to the stage at the Birmingham Rep theatre next month.

He is starring in the stage premiere of Rudy's Rare Records, a poignant comedy set in a record shop in Birmingham. It is based on the popular BBC Radio 4 series, written by Danny Robins and co-created by Dudley-born Lenny.

The show will run from September 4 to 20 and tells the story of the shop, stacked with vinyl, owned by the irrepressible Rudy Sharpe, played by Larrington Walker, reluctantly helped out by son Adam, played by Lenny.

Reggae

With Rudy's chaotic approach of 'if it ain't on the shelf, it's on the floor' clashing with Adam's need for calm and order, the record shop soon becomes a battleground of bickering played out to the shop's foot-tapping reggae and soul soundtrack.

However, when the threat of developers looms, father and son must put their differences aside as they battle to keep the music alive. It features music by Jimmy Cliff, Desmond Dekker, Bob Marley and the Sugarhill Gang which played live by an onstage band.

Lenny said: "I've performed comedy gigs many times in Birmingham but this is my first straight acting role in the city and the first time I've been on stage at the Rep, which is something I'm really looking forward to. Growing up in Dudley I would come into Birmingham every Saturday to hang-out in a record shop not too dissimilar to Rudy's, so it's a play that's very close to my heart."

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Praise for plans to restore fountain

A 'GUARDIAN' of Dudley's landmark water fountain has welcomed plans to bring it back to life.

Repair work will take place on the 19th century monument in Dudley High Street to enable it to dispense water again.

It has been out of order for almost 50 years and traders have long called for it to be restored.

The £150,000 restoration project, which has been announced by Dudley Council, was welcomed by Iris Reed, aged 75, who has campaigned for the fountain to be repaired.

Mrs Reed, who has become known as the Keeper of the Fountain and regular gives talks on its history to community groups, said: "I am very pleased. This is what I have wanted for a long time. The fountain has not worked properly since 1965. It will be absolutely wonderful when it is repaired and working again. "

Council bosses said repairs will enable the fountain, which is described as 'a central and prominent part of the town's character', to be enjoyed for many years to come.

Cheers! Organisers from left, Dave Borley, Tasha Vahey, Jake Hanson, Mark Veitch and Dave Benton

Visitors bowled over by cricket club beer festival

A RECORD number of real ale and cider fans turned out to raise a glass at this year's Black Country Beer Festival.

More than 1,000 people sampled the tempting array of drinks on offer at Lye Cricket Club during the three-day event.

The majority of the 80 ales, ciders and perries had sold out by the end of the festival on Saturday night, organisers said.

Visitors to the venue in Stourbridge Road, were treated to live music throughout the weekend and were also able to relax watching a cricket match on Saturday.

Club chairman Dave Borley said the festival, which began on Thursday, had been a 'great success'.

"We easily had in excess of 1,000 people which is more than we have ever had. We sold out of all of the ciders and the majority of the ales by the end which was great.

"The feedback we have had from people who came to the festival has been very positive so it has been very well received.

"Overall it has been a great event and we are looking forward to planning the next one," he said.

Counting

The event was also raising money for the Lye and Wollescote branch of the Royal British Legion. The charity was chosen because of this year being the 100th anniversary of the start of the First World War.

Mr Borley said they were still counting the donations but he was hopeful they had raised 'a good amount' for the organisation.

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Clergy give backing to criticism of Cameron

CHURCH leaders in the Black Country have backed a letter sent by the Church of England to David Cameron, criticising the Government's response to tackling the rise of Islamic extremism.

By Heather Large

Concerns have been raised about the Prime Minister's handling of the crisis in Iraq and the 'growing silence' over the plight of persecuted Christians.

The strongly-worded letter from the Bishop of Leeds, the Rt Rev Nicholas Baines, has been supported by many senior clergy across the country.

He raised questions about ministers' failure to respond to calls to set out what arrangements would be made to offer asylum in the UK.

The Archdeacon of Dudley, the Rev Nikki Groarke said she also shared his concerns and praised him for bringing the issue to the public's attention.

"I think it was an excellent letter. It raised some serious issues," she said.

The Bishop of Dudley, the Rt Rev Graham Usher has also described it as 'an excellent letter'.

He tweeted: "Northern Iraq deserves better than the crumbs that fall from our foreign policy table."

Former Bishop of Dudley, the Rt Rev David Walker, who is now Bishop of Manchester, said the Government had a 'moral obligation that it is repeatedly failing to rise to'.

He believed the failure to offer asylum could be down to political sensitivities over immigration. "There is always a concern around anything that could play into the debate around immigration," he said.

"But the numbers that would come here are so small that effectively they are not going to disrupt British society in any noticeable or meaningful way.

"In fact they would be good assets to our society."

If the Government failed to act then Parliament should be recalled to debate the issue, he suggested.

Dr Baines said in his letter that in contrast to France and Germany there had "so far been only silence from the UK Government".

He welcomed the 'notable and admirable' focus on the plight of the minority Yazidi community, who have been at the centre of an international aid operation.

"However, there has been increasing silence about the plight of tens of thousands of Christians who have been displaced, driven from cities and homelands, and who face a bleak future," he said in his letter.

Blade-threat girl, 15, escapes her attacker

A15-YEAR-OLD girl was threatened by a man in Dudley. She was walking along Bushey Fields Road, near Russells Hall Hospital when he approached her.

He grabbed her and threatened her with what police are describing as a 'bladed instrument' but she got away at around 7.30pm on Sunday.

The man is described as black with a light complexion. He has short afro styled hair, a thin moustache and was wearing a distinctive yellow tracksuit top.

Detective Sergeant Leighton Shingles, from the Violent Crime Team, said: "This happened around visiting time at the hospital and we understand that the area would have been busy with people.

"The girl managed to scream out which we believe would have been heard by passers-by. The man ran away after she managed to escape and again we want to hear from anyone who saw this man in the distinctive jacket running away ."

Asbestos was linked to death

A FORMER BT worker died after contracting asbestos-related cancer, an inquest heard. Michael Dando died earlier this month after succumbing to mesothelioma.

An inquest into the 71-year-old's death at Smethwick Council House last week heard how Mr Dando, from Brook Street, Wall Heath, had received compensation from BT in April after being diagnosed with the disease in 2012.

Coroner's officer Russell Williams said: "He deteriorated over a period of six weeks, and died at home with his family. Histology confirmed this gentleman had mesothelioma. Mr Dando was most likely exposed when he worked for BT."

Black Country coroner Robin Balmain recorded that death was due to an industrial disease.

Road time trial cyclist died after crash into lamp post

A KEEN cyclist died after crashing into a lamp post while doing a road time trial, an inquest heard.

Chris Storer was riding along the Bridgnorth Road, near Stourbridge, when he lost control of his Dalkia bike.

The 51-year-old had already completed one lap of the organised event when he crashed and suffered multiple injuries.

Mr Storer, from Derbyshire, had more than 30 years riding experience and was was a member of the South Pennine Road Club. The inquest at Cannock Coroner's Court was told Mr Storer was going down the A458 in Enville, near to the junction of Blundies Lane, on March 15.

Witness Keith Farmer, who was driving along the route, said he saw Mr Storer travelling towards him in cycling clothing and helmet.

In a statement read out at court Mr Farmer said: "His bike collided with the kerb and I saw his bike wobble. I then saw him lose balance and he collided with the lamp post."

Mr Storer was taken to Russells Hall Hospital following at around 3.30pm and was confirmed dead later that day. Officers from Staffordshire Police said no defects were found on the bike and there was no alcohol or drugs found in Mr Storer's system.

He had negotiated that stretch of the road previously although it is not sure at what speed he was travelling at when the collision happened.

Assistant coroner Margaret Jones recorded a verdict of death due to misadventure.

She said: "Chris was an experienced cyclist, he was taking part in a time trial. I have no doubt he was doing something that he loved.

"For some reason he misjudged a bend at the end."

Pay back cash or face prison

A HUSBAND has been ordered to repay more than £27,000 he swindled in benefits.

Self-employed Wayne Cooper obtained the money by dishonestly claiming social security benefit, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard. He was sentenced last year when given a community order.

The 46-year-old from Chapel Street, Wordsley, returned to court last week for a proceeds of crime hearing.

Recorder Derek Chinery was told Cooper had paid back £2,200 of the original £29,473 fraud and planned to remortgage his house to repay the remainder.

He was given until February 11, 2015, to put his affairs in order, or face 18 months in prison if he defaults.

Cycling charity challenge

All smiles from Matthew Hackett before the start of his charity cycle ride

HE had never cycled more than 20 miles in one go before now. But a dedicated charity fundraiser hit the road last Friday for a cause close to his heart.

Matthew Hackett, aged 40, from Hagley, near Stourbridge, joined a group of university friends to take on the challenge of cycling more than 960 miles from Land's End to John O'Groats.

However, while his friends, who he met while at Exeter University , are able to train together on routes around Devon, Matthew has been left to train on his own.

He was taking part with friends Colin Whitbread, Ben Newson, Stephen Prowse, Nick Threadgold and Simon Whitworth, on the ride.

The father-of-two, from Bromsgrove Road, works as a recruitment director by day. But he has been out training on his bike at least three nights week and at weekends in preparation.

"My wife thought I'd gone completely bonkers when I told her," he said. "I didn't realised how much hard work it was going to take but will be worth it in the end."

Matthew had long wished to do a charity challenge with his friends and has done his own fundraising events over the years.

All are raising money on the nine-day ride for charities including Prostate Cancer UK, Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research and the Ronald McDonald Trust.

It is especially poignant for Matthew as his father Maurice, who played football for Halesowen Town and Bromsgrove Rovers, died exactly 10 years ago aged 64 from prostate cancer.

Anyone who would like to support Matthew should visit www.le2jog.co.uk

Europe contest for table tennis star

A SCHOOLGIRL is in Europe for her first international table tennis event weeks after claiming a national title.

Charlotte Bardsley, from Kinver, won the England national title for under 12s in June and this week travelled to Strasbourg, France, to compete for her country in the European Mini-Cadet Championships.

The 12-year-old Charlotte, who plays at Woodfield Table Tennis Club, Wolverhampton, said she was hoping to do well in her first international event.

Charlotte, who attends Heathfield School, in Wolverley, near Kidderminster, recently visited a top training camp in Denmark and is now practicing in Grantham with England's Commonwealth medallists Joanna Drinkhall and Kelly Sibley.

Her father Richard said Charlotte was the only English girl going to France in her age group and already starts next season as number one ranked player at under 13.

Rescue of man in fall

A MAN was rescued after falling 20ft down a steep embankment at Wren's Nest Nature Reserve.

Paramedics were called to the Dudley site on Sunday afternoon to help the man, who was in his 30s and had suffered back and abdominal injuries. A West Midlands Ambulance Service spokesman said bystanders alerted them.

"Crews located the man 20ft down a steep slope," he said. The man was taken to Russells Hall Hospital.

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Drivers in two-car crash escape injury

TWO motorists had a lucky escape when their cars collided in Wall Heath.

Despite extensive to damage to their cars, both drivers were not believed to be seriously hurt.

The smash happened near the traffic lights on Enville Road at around 8.45pm on Sunday.

When firefighters from Brierley Hill arrived on the scene they found a silver Mazda 3 on its side and a black Hybrid Toyota Auris with a smashed bonnet.

Attended

Firefighter Adam Tims said police were called out first and the fire service attended to make the vehicles safe. He said: "We didn't have to cut anyone out of the cars.

"Miraculously the female driver in the Toyota was not injured, just badly shaken.

"There was no one in the Mazda when the police arrived.

"They must have left the scene."

Dragons miss a big chance as John's firm creams off business

DESPITE his anti-ageing face cream being dismissed as 'poppycock' on Dragons' Den, John Richardson's business is now reaching a turnover of more than £1 million a month.

He has gone from strength to strength despite being rejected by the BBC TV show entrepreneurs and has now launched his second product, a 'lip plumper'.

It all started when the 41-year-old former pharmaceuticals salesman from Halesowen overheard a conversation between two women discussing the pros and cons of Botox while he was sitting at a service station near Oxford.

It led to him designing a cream which works as a natural alternative.

But it proved unpopular with the Dragons' Den judging panel, featuring Duncan Bannatyne and Deborah Meaden, when he appeared on the popular show in 2011.

Invest

They turned down the chance to invest.

After going ahead with his business idea, the £89.99-a-bottle Richibrown organic Natox cream flew off the shelves.

It is now sold online to more than 50 different countries as well as in dozens of salons across the UK.

Mr Richardson said 12,000 of the £19.99 lip plumper,which is sold in the form of a 7.5ml lip gloss,had sold in just two days after it launched.

There was demand from 400 salons eager to stock the product.

The father-of-two grew up in Stourbridge and went to Pedmore Technology College.

He said: "I'm just an ordinary bloke from the Black Country – it's crazy to think that I now have a skincare and cosmetics company.

"It has been absolutely phenomenal. I just listen to what ladies want and go from there.

"I never expected it to take off like it has. I think if you had seen me at school, you would have said I was the least likely person to be running a skincare and cosmetics company."

John Richardson proves Dragons' Den wrong as his anti-ageing cream business goes from strength to strength

Stocked

He explained: "The timing with the new product couldn't have been better because we were delayed getting it out so there was a huge demand by the time it was ready."

He is now working on his next product, an anti-inflammatory cream which he claims could benefit people with arthritis, and says he has already had interest from the NHS.

"I am just getting started but I could never of dreamed this would happen," he added.

His Natox product, which uses natural ingredients, has been stocked by Boots and Selfridges.

He enlisted the help of his friend Dr Chris Vorster to develop the design and, after six years of testing, it was ready to go on the market.

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Zoo helps Holly become a princess for the day

A seven-year-old girl with a spinal disorder had all her wishes come true when she became a princess for the day at Dudley Zoo.

Holly Foley, who suffers from sacral agenesis, received a royal tour of the site's farmyard and a VIP meet-and-greet session with the animals.

She then met zoo chief executive Peter Suddock who presented her with an adoption package for guinea pig – named Rapunzel after a Disney princess.

The youngster, who attends Ashwood Park Primary School, Wordsley, was treated to the special day after revealing her dream to the Rays of Sunshine Children's Charity, which organises wishes for children with serious or life-threatening illnesses.

After being contacted by the charity, zoo staff pulled out all the stops to make sure Holly and her family, who live in Wordsley, had a day to remember.

Loved

Head of media and communications Jill Hitchman said: "Holly had a great day and came dressed regally for the occasion in a beautiful princess dress.

"She loved the chance to hold many of the site's smaller animals, including Maisie the giant rabbit, Elton the chinchilla and Smokey the ferret and was over the moon to be presented with an adoption package for Rapunzel."

During her visit Holly also toured the rest of the 40-acre site, stopping off to see a baby Rothschild's giraffe, Kito, a snow leopard cub, Makalu, and four newborn meerkats.

Holly said: "I loved meeting the animals especially Rapunzel, who was really friendly and cuddly and I can come back and see her now as I've adopted her." Her mother, Julie-Ann Perks, said: "Holly had a fantastic day. She loves anything to do with princesses and is animal mad so the day was just perfect for her. She didn't stop smiling the whole time."

Rays of Sunshine Children's Charity was formed in 2003 and specialises in helping children who are living with serious or life-limiting illnesses.

Its medical adviser, Dr Warren Hyer, said: "The families and children thrive on the preparation of their wish and love their wish as it comes true. This can only have a positive effect on their recovery."

Senior keeper Kirsty Thornton introduces Holly Foley to Rapunzel, the guinea pig

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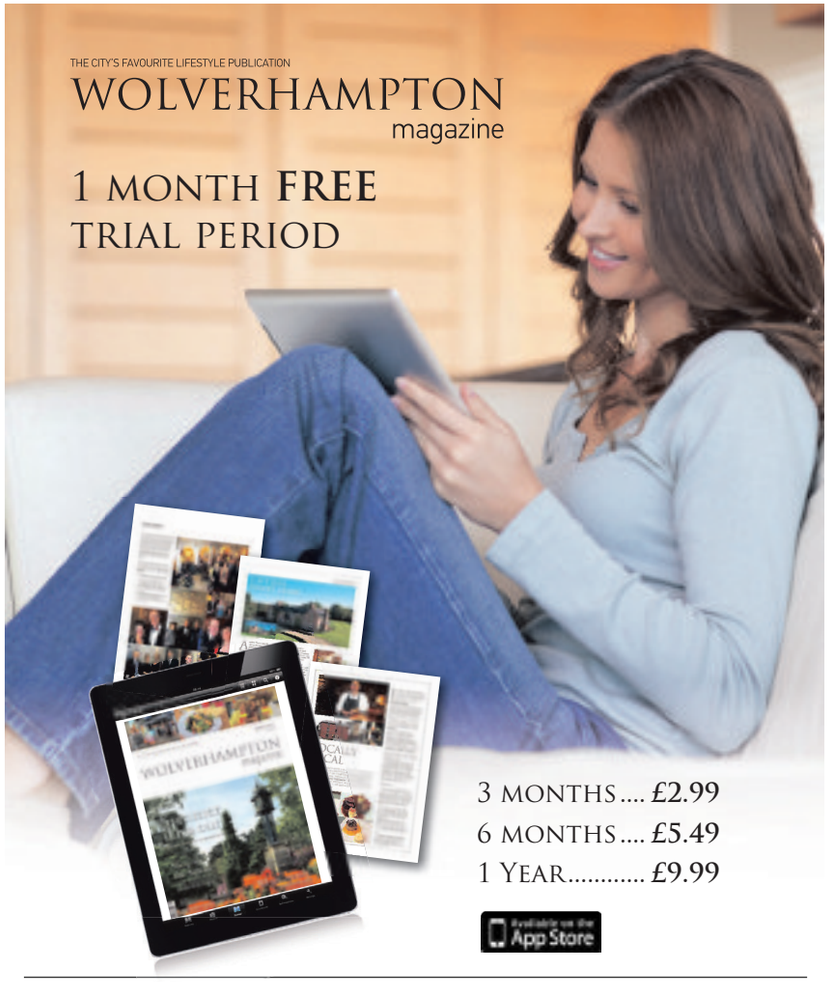

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Final cut for hairdresser after 50 years

Hairdresser Carol Walker with her mother, Nancy Harris, aged 85, and colleagues, family and clients

SHE'S tamed the tresses of thousands of men and women for 53 years – now Carol Walker is hanging up her scissors for good.

She started cutting hair in 1962, has owned salons in Dudley and Kidderminster, and worked as an in-store hairdresser for Marks & Spencer.

The 67-year-old said: "I recently injured my shoulder and that has forced me to retire.

"I think if it wasn't for my injury I would keep going, but I think there comes a time where you just have to stop and this was my time.

"I have great staff and I trust them to take over for me and do a fantastic job, but I will still be around."

Carol started her career with a five-year apprenticeship in a salon before moving on to open her own business.

She was joined by her mother, Nancy Harris, aged 85, and colleagues, family and clients as she retired from Simply Hair by Carol, in Stourbridge Road, Halesowen.

Carol said she has enjoyed every minute of her career, adding "I can't believe it has been 53 years.

Popular

"My favourite years must be when I worked at M&S, it was a different time and we don't have in-store hairdressers anymore."

Over the years she has seen British hairstyles change, and has some favourites. She said: "The bob has always endured, really, it's a very popular style.

"It has altered a bit over the years but it has always been around."

There are some styles that she is less keen on, however.

"I never really liked hairstyles that were all curls, like the really big perms. They didn't have any finesse."

She now spends her time playing bowls and helping out at Startime Variety, which puts on pantomimes among other shows.

"I mostly do prompting now but I have acted in the past – I have even played a fairy," she said.

"I have loved my career and I shall miss everybody, but I think it is time for me to put my feet up."

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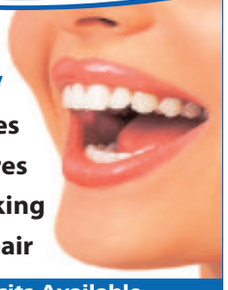

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Return to its roots as JB's rocks to the beat of music

DUDLEY'S landmark nightspot JB's is returning to its roots as a nightclub. It is believed that the nightclub is only hosting music nights on Saturdays currently.

By Andrew Turton

The leader of Dudley's Conservative group who said it would boost nightlife in the town.

Councillor Patrick Harley said: "So long as they attract the right clientèle there isn't a problem I can see.

"In fact it is good for Dudley to have a nightclub.

"Wolverhampton and Stourbridge got their act together with nightlife so it is about time Dudley had some too."

Firm plans for the future of the banqueting suite have yet to be confirmed.

Hundreds of people packed into JB's on its last night in January 2011 when the then owner Sam Jukes revealed huge losses of up to £1 million. The club was later bought at auction for £225,000 before its management was taken over by Ramesh Ahir.

The former rock venue had been reopened as a banqueting and conference centre ran into planning problems two years ago after a six-figure revamp.

Host

But Mr Ahir suffered a setback when he failed on appeal to overturn a decision by Dudley Council to refuse planning permission.

This forced the club to rethink plans to host wedding receptions.

In recent days new signs advertising the conferencing centre were taken down and its future remained unclear until posters showcasing the new name NRG nightclub were revealed. A range of dance music and R'n'B nights have been scheduled at the nightclub opposite The Station Hotel.

Further details about the new venture have yet to be released but new Facebook pages and Twitter accounts have been set up marketing nights.

Mr Ahir was unavailable for comment.

In its heyday JB's was is famous for hosting superstars such as Robert Plant and giving bands like Blur, U2 and the Stone Roses their big break.

Its heaving rooms and boisterous crowds have become legendary in the industry. The club's role in giving fledgling bands a step up to the main stage is part of rock and roll folklore.

Now the nightclub in the heart of the town welcomes a new crowd.

JB's started life in a social club in 1969 as part of Dudley Sports Centre before moving to King Street in the early 1970s where many people warmly remember its heyday.

JB's rocks to the beat of music again

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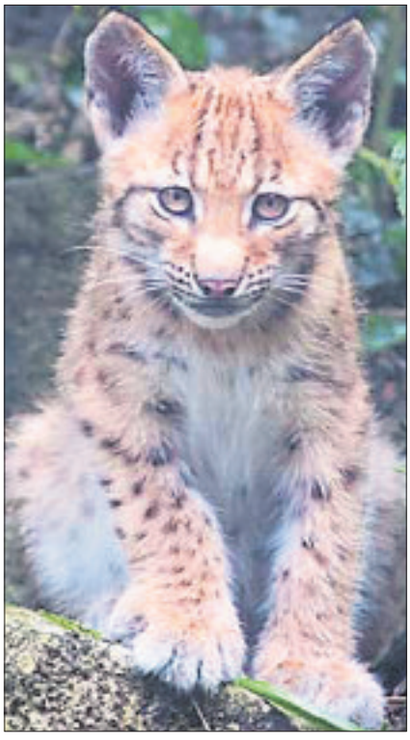
Mr Ahir was unavailable for comment.

Cubs prove hard to catch for keepers



The lynx cub may look cute but it had its claws out for keepers when they gave it a health check

THEY may be cute but these three feisty lynx cubs can put up a good fight – as keepers at Dudley Zoo discovered.

As staff attempted to give them their first health checks, they found the playful youngsters did want to be caught.

Keepers wanted to find out the sex of the three-month old triplets but it proved to be more difficult than they anticipated, with the cubs bearing their teeth and claws.

However, when staff were finally able to grab them, they found out they had two boys and one girl. Senior keeper Adam Walker said: "We quickly discovered that despite their cute looks they have very sharp claws and teeth, growl and hiss a lot and jump about – they did not like being caught."

Zoo vet Peter Stewart gave the trio their first inoculations, checked their weight and confirmed sexes - and now keepers are busy thinking of names for them

Mr Walker added: "The cubs are making really good progress and are growing quickly. "

Man attacked love rival with metal buckle belt

A MAN who ambushed a love-rival's car and set about him with a belt has been made the subject of a 12-month supervision order.

Mark Coley, aged 26, of Westbourne Road, Halesowen, was told he must take part in an alcohol awareness course as part of the terms of the order when he appeared before Wolverhampton Crown Court last week week.

Mr David Lees, prosecuting, said Bradley Manning had been in a relationship with Coley's ex-girlfriend , leading to considerable ill feeling on Coley's part.

He said on May 5 Mr Manning was driving in Dudley Road, Rowley Regis. When he passed The Cock Inn, he became aware of Coley emerging from an alley.

"He stepped out in front of Mr Manning's vehicle, Mr Manning describes the defendant as having no concern for his safety," said Mr Lees.

He then struck Mr Manning's car. When he got out to see what had happened Coley ran towards him swinging a belt with a large metal buckle.

The belt struck Mr Manning on the right cheek, said Mr Lees, and Coley started punching him in the face.

Mr Malcolm Fowler, for Coley, said he recognised he needed to address his drinking.

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Dancing Courses	Wks	Day	Time	Price
Ballroom and Latin American Dancing (Begs) No Partner necessary *6.00 - 8.00pm	10	Mon	6 - 7.30pm	£38.75
Strictly Latin American Dancing (Imp) No Partner necessary	10	Mon	7.30 - 9.00pm	£38.75
Belly Dancing Beginners	10	Tues	7 - 9.00pm	£50.00
Tribal Fusion Belly Dancing (Imp to Adv)	10	Wed	7.45 - 9.15pm	£38.75

Computer Courses - All students need to bring a Memory Stick on The 1st night

Computers for Absolute Beginners (All Ages) * 7.00 - 9.30pm	10	Mon	7 - 9pm	£52.00
Gadget Know How - Get the most out of your Mobile Phone, Tablet, I Pad, Laptop etc	5	Mon	6 - 7.30pm	£27.50
Digital Photography Beginners/Intermediate	10	Mon	7.30 - 9pm	£43.00

Back to Work Courses - All students need to bring a Memory Stick on The 1st night

Introduction to Excel (Produce professional document for home & work)* 7.00 - 9.30pm	5	Tues	7 - 9pm	£27.50
Intro to Basic Book Keeping (Basic knowledge of Excel required) * 7.00 - 9.30pm	8	Wed	7 - 9pm	£43.00

Music Courses

Keyboards for Beginners *6.30 – 8.30pm	10	Wed	7 - 8.30pm	£38.75
Keyboards for Mixed Abilities (Int/Adv)	10	Wed	7.30 - 9pm	£38.75
Family Guitars for Beginners. Learn to play Electric or Acoustic. (Provide own guitar)	10	Wed	5 - 6pm	£55.00
Guitars for Beginners	10	Wed	6 - 7pm	£27.50
Guitars for Improvers	10	Wed	7 - 8pm	£27.50
Guitars for Intermediates	10	Wed	8 - 9.30pm	£38.75
Drums for Adults (Full Kit of Drums) **	10	Wed	7.30 - 9.30pm	£50.00

Creative Crafts/ Art Courses

Flower Arranging (Mixed Ability) *7.00 - 9.30pm	10	Mon	7 - 9pm	£55.00	▲
Floristry (Mixed Ability) *7.00 – 9.30pm	10	Thurs	7 - 9pm	£55.00	▲
Learn How to Use a Sewing Machine *7.00 - 9.30pm	8	Mon	7 - 9pm	£41.00	
Sewing for Improvers - including Alterations and Recycling Textiles	10	Tues	7 - 9pm	£50.00	
Sewing for Improvers - including Alterations and Recycling Textiles	10	Thurs	7 - 9pm	£50.00	
Art (For Absolute Beginners) *7.00 - 9.30pm	10	Wed	7 - 9pm	£50.00	
Learn to Face Paint (Ideal for Fetes and Parties) *7.00 - 9.30pm	5	Thurs	7 - 9pm	£27.50	
Cooking for Fellas (All Levels) *7.00 - 9.30pm	8	Tues	6.30 - 9pm	£75.00	▲
Family Diabetic Cookery Ideal for those with or Carers of Diabetics *7.00 - 9.30pm	5	Thurs	7 - 9pm	£37.50	▲
Sewing for Complete Beginners. *Held at Lye Community Centre (Daytime Course).*	10	Tues	10 - 12pm	£50.00	
Sewing Improvers. *Held at Lye Community Centre (Daytime Course)*	10	Tues	12.30pm - 2.30pm	£50.00	

Career Qualification Courses

PTLLS- (Preparing to Teaching in The Lifelong Learning Sector) 7307 minimum qualification for teaching adults ***	10	Thurs	6 - 9pm	£255.00
Level 2 Emergency First Aid at Work RING FOR DETAILS ***	2	Tues	6 - 9.30pm	£48.00
Paediatric First Aid (12 hours OFSTD Requirement) ***	4	Tues	6 - 9 pm	£60.00
Basic Food Hygiene Certificate (A must if working with food) Mon, Tue or Thurs ***	2	Options	6 - 9.30pm	£48.00
British Sign Language (BSL) Level 1 - Unit 101 (Price excludes Exam Fee £47)	10	Wed	7 - 9pm	£50.00
Start Your Own Business *7.00 - 9.30pm	5	Thurs	7 - 9pm	£27.50

Language Courses	Wks	Day	Time	Price
Holiday French (Beginners)	10	Weds	6 -7.30pm	£38.75
Holiday French (Improvers)	10	Wed	7.30 - 9.30pm	£50.00
Holiday Italian (Beginners)	10	Wed	8.15 - 9.30pm	£34.00
Holiday Italian (Improvers)	10	Wed	5.45 - 7pm	£34.00
Holiday Italian (Advanced)	10	Wed	7 - 8.15pm	£34.00
Holiday Spanish (Beginners)	10	Tues	6 – 7.30pm	£38.75
Holiday Spanish (Improvers)	10	Tues	7.30 - 9pm	£38.75
Holiday Spanish (Improvers) Ideal for those who attended a 20 hour course	10	Thurs	6 - 7.30pm	£38.75
Conversation Spanish (Adv) ASSESSMENT BY TUTOR	10	Thurs	6 - 7.30pm	£38.75

Recreational Courses

Free 2 b Me - for Men & Women-Transform Your Life, Body, Soul and Spirit *7.00-9.30pm	5	Mon	7 - 9pm	£27.50
Self Awareness (Begs) 6TH SENSE DEVELOPMENT *6.00 - 8.00pm	8	Tues	6 - 7.30pm	£32.00
Self Awareness (Int/Adv) 6TH SENSE DEVELOPMENT	8	Tues	7 - 9pm	£41.00
Intro to Beauty & Nail Techniques (Ideal for Beginners) *7.30 - 9.30pm	10	Thurs	7.30 - 9pm	£43.75

COURSES START WEEK COMMENCING MONDAY 22nd SEPTEMBER 2014

Cake Decorating (Begs)Decorate a Cake for Christmas using Sugar Paste, Royal Icing**	8	Mon	7 - 9pm	£55.00	▲
Cake Decorating & Sugar Craft Club (Int /Adv) **	8	Wed	7 - 9pm	£55.00	▲
Cake Decorating and Flower Making Club (Int)**	8	Thurs	7 - 9pm	£55.00	▲
Woodwork for Total Beginners (Introduction into Woodworking skills) *7.00 - 9.30pm	10	Tues	7 - 9pm	£50.00	

OTHER COURSES

GCSE Maths Revision Club **	5	Tues	6.30 - 8.30pm	£37.50
LITERACY AND NUMERACY RING FOR DETAILS		TBA	TBA	FREE
Fun Burlesque for Beginners **		TBA	TBA	

FREE TASTER SESSIONS

September 2014 Time - 7pm-8.30pm

COMPUTER FOR BEGINNERS	Monday 08/09/2014
FLOWER ARRANGING	Monday 08/09/2014
WOODWORK	Monday 08/09/2014
SEWING BEGINNERS	Monday 08/09/2014
FREE 2 B ME	Monday 08/09/2014
BALLROOM AND LATIN AMERICAN DANCING	Monday 08/09/2014
COOKING FOR FELLAS	Tuesday 09/09/2014
SPANISH BEGINNERS	Tuesday 09/09/2014
AM I PSYCHIC?	Tuesday 09/09/2014
BELLY DANCING	Tuesday 09/09/2014
ITALIAN BEGINNERS	Wednesday 10/09/2014
FRENCH BEGINNER	Wednesday 10/09/2014
BOOKKEEPING	Wednesday 09/09/2014
ART BEGINNERS	Wednesday 10/09/2014
GUITARS	Wednesday 10/09/2014
KEYBOARDS	Wednesday 10/09/2014
BASIC SIGN LANGUAGE	Wednesday 10/09/2014

FAMILY COURSES - All children must be a minimum age of 7 years and attend with an adult

** CLUBS 10% Concessions on (Universal Credit - Income Support, JSA, Employment & Support Allowance, Housing Benefit, (Child Tax Credit, Working Tax Credit, Household income of less than £16,010) and Retirement Pension **

Courses Fees include Tuition, Registration and Demonstration Fee if applicable.

Payable in full first night of class (Prices are subject to change)

75% Concessions Available on Courses - EVIDENCE required first night of class

Universal Credit - Income Support, JSA, Employment & Support Allowance, Housing Benefit, Child Tax Credit, Working Tax Credit and Pension Credit

All learners need to bring proof of UK Residency/Identification e.g. Passport, Driving licence

Where you see this sign Demonstration Fee applicable ▲

Kay Scampton, Thorns Community College Adult Education & Extended Schools Manager, encourages everyone to try something new this September:

"You're never too old to learn a new skill"

For further Information Please Contact Kay Scampton On 01384 816243 on answer choose option 1 followed by 243 or 07764 404588

WOODWORK ART COMPUTERS SEWING FLORISTRY COOKING OFFICE SKILLS DANCING

Bluesday gigs at Hockley venue

A SERIES of weekly blues nights have been lined up at a Birmingham venue for the coming months.

The Asylum 2 in Hockley will be hosting the concerts every Tuesday from September 23 to December 16.

The event is being organised by Halesowen-born music mogul Jim Simpson, who once managed Black Sabbath. Mr Simpson said: "Tuesday will be Bluesday, with some of the finest blues bands about, digging into the urban and country Blues of Chicago and The Delta and stopping off at all points between."

The opening party at the venue in Hampton Street will feature The 58's Blues Band. Admission will be £5. Coming up are the Whiskey Brothers and Steve Ajao Blues Giants.

Civic Hall date for Kaiser Chiefs

V Festival favourites Kaiser Chiefs will be playing at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on February 6 next year.

Fronted by The Voice judge Ricky Wilson, the Yorkshire band's date is part of a UK tour throughout January and February.

New single My Life is due out on September 22 and will be the third single from their Number One album Education, Education, Education & War.

The band opened Glastonbury 2014, stormed T in The Park and will join the Foo Fighters on a tour of South Africa in December.

Tickets for the Civic gig cost £30.25 or £38.50.

Disney on Ice to celebrate 100 years of fun and magic

JOIN the celebration as 65 of Disney's unforgettable characters from 18 timeless stories come to life at Birmingham NIA when Disney On Ice celebrates 100 Years of Magic from the world of Disney.

With Mickey and Minnie Mouse leading the fun, the show will include spectacular skating routines, elaborate sets and 160 beautiful costumes with ice dancing devised by the choreographer who created the skating segment of the opening ceremony at the 2002 Winter Olympics.

The cast of 47 ice dancers represent a total of ten countries.

Disney magic at the NIA

Dolls

Such Disney musical classics at A Whole New World, Beauty and the Beast and Can You Feel The Love Tonight will feature alongside exciting moments from Mulan, The Lion King and Disney/Pixar's Finding Nemo, The Incredibles, and Toy Story films.

Outfitting this special centenary show has been a huge challenge for the costume department with dazzling designs ranging from Mickey's Marching Band to the 'It's A Small World' dolls that form part of a sparkling light parade. The Finding Nemo outfits will mimic underwater movement. But Minnie promises her red sequin spangled gown will be a real showstopper.

Disney On Ice celebrates 100 Years of Magic will be at The NIA in Birmingham city centre from October 22 to November 2. The tour is also visiting Manchester, Sheffield, London, Glasgow and Newcastle.

The arrival of Disney on Ice has been an annual treat for West Midlands families for several years now but this promises to be an extra special occasion. Tickets are available now and to find out more visit the website www.disneyonice.co.uk or via Facebook and YouTube.

EofE join Vamps on UK tour

BLACK Country rockers EofE are to support top teen band The Vamps on their autumn UK tour.

"We can't wait to head back out on the road, especially with The Vamps", said Tom Harris, 18, lead singer of the Dudley band. "They're incredibly successful, really accomplished musicians, and the same age as us. I'm looking forward to having a lot of laughs on the road!"

This follows a support slot on the phenomenally successful McBusted arena tour, playing to 380,000 fans across 32 UK dates.

'The McBusted tour was a fantastic break for us," said Tom, from Netherton. "Their fans were really supportive and the band offered us some great advice.'

This week EofE release second single Piece of You. They support The Vamps at the NIA on October 5 and have a headline gig at The Institute in Birmingham on November 15.

Back on the road — Dudley band EofE with singer Tom Harris second from right

On way or another Blondie are back

FOLLOWING their comeback at this summer's Glastonbury Festival and scheduled appearance at the V Festival, Blondie will be back in the Midlands for a concert at Birmingham O2 Academy on September 13.

Blondie have sold more than 40 million albums and repeatedly reached the top of the charts over four decades with such hits as Heart Of Glass, Sunday Girl, Atomic, Call Me, The Tide Is High, Rapture and Maria. This year the band has celebrated their 40th anniversary with the NME Godlike Genius Award and release of new album Ghosts of Download. It is available as part of two-disc package Blondie 4(0) Ever, which includes greatest hits and brand new album.

Revisiting heyday of the Fab Four

FIFTY years on from Beatlemania, Richard Lester's groundbreaking film about the Fab Four, A Hard Day's Night, has been released as a restored special edition Blu-ray and two-disc DVD package.

The movie remains both a sparky comedy, summing up The Beatles' irreverent style, and a snapshot of an England emerging from post-war austerity into the swinging 60s. Alongside the movie, which has a cast ranging from Steptoe and Son's Wilfred Bramble to dancer Lionel Blair, there are several bonus features. These include a documentary, interviews with The Beatles and an audio interview with the film director.

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An Express & Star supplement

CHOICE

Peter Capaldi

Doctor Who (BBC1, 7.50pm)

New series. Having briefly appeared at the end of last year's Christmas special, The Thick of It star Peter Capaldi goes on his first adventure as the Time Lord, taking over from Matt Smith. When he arrives in Victorian London, he finds a dinosaur causing havoc in the Thames, as well as a spate of deadly spontaneous combustions. Will Clara's friendship forged with the previous Doctor survive as they embark on a terrifying mission into the heart of an alien conspiracy? Sci-fi drama, co-starring Jenna Coleman, Neve McIntosh, Dan Starkey, Catrin Stewart, Peter Ferdinando, Paul Hickey, Tony Way, Maggie Service, Brian Miller, Ellis George, Mark Kempner, Graham Duff, Peter Hannah and Paul Kasey.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** Football Focus. **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.10** Live Formula 1: Belgian Grand Prix – Qualifying. Coverage from the Spa-Francorchamps circuit (Start-time 1.00pm). **2.20** Live Challenge Cup Rugby League Final. Castleford Tigers v Leeds Rhinos (Kick-off 3.00pm). **5.20** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **5.40** Pointless Celebrities.

6.30 Tumble. The remaining celebrities tackle trampolining and rhythmic gymnastics with a twist in the third week of the competition. They're hoping to impress the judging panel – Louis Smith, Nadia Comaneci, Craig Heap and Sebastien Stella – and the two lowest-scoring contestants then face The Vault, before one of them leaves the show. Plus, girl group the Saturdays perform a medley of their biggest hits. Alex Jones hosts.

7.50 Doctor Who. New series. Having briefly appeared at the end of last year's Christmas special, The Thick of It star Peter Capaldi goes on his first adventure as the Time Lord, taking over from Matt Smith. When he arrives in Victorian London, he finds a dinosaur causing havoc in the Thames, as well as a spate of deadly spontaneous combustions. Will Clara's friendship forged with the previous Doctor survive as they embark on a terrifying mission into the heart of an alien conspiracy? Sci-fi drama, co-starring Jenna Coleman.

9.10 Casualty. Zoe is feeling low about her 40th birthday. Cal steals Ethan's idea, Jeff thinks he is being followed, while Rita's behaviour starts to worry her colleagues. Last in the series.

10.00 The National Lottery Live.

10.10 BBC News; Weather.

10.30 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League clashes, including Everton v Arsenal at Goodison Park and Chelsea v Leicester City at Stamford Bridge; National Lottery Update.

11.50 The Football League Show. Manish Bhasin presents highlights and all the goals from the latest fixtures in the Championship, League One and League Two.

1.10 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.15** BBC News.

BBC2

6.35 Formula 1: Belgian Grand Prix – First Practice. **8.15** Formula 1: Belgian Grand Prix – Second Practice. **9.55** Live Formula 1: Belgian Grand Prix – Third Practice. **11.10** Coast. **11.30** The Great British Bake Off: An Extra Slice. **12.00** David Lean: Talking Pictures. **12.40 Film:** In Which We Serve. (1942) Second World War drama, starring Noel Coward. **2.30** Escape to the Country. **3.00** Flog It! **4.00** Final Score. **5.30** Triathlon.

7.00 Proms Extra. Jazz singer Clare Teal chats about her role in the Battle of the Bands concert, and Katie Derham is also joined by conductor Sascha Goetzel and composer Mark-Anthony Turnage.

7.45 Dad's Army. A night at the cinema and a black-market toasted cheese sandwich make Mainwaring have an unusual dream in which he is Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo.

8.15 Ancient Egypt: Life and Death in the Valley of the Kings. Egyptologist Joann Fletcher looks at the lives of ordinary Egyptian citizens 3,500 years ago. In the first of two programmes, she explores the conditions of their tightly packed houses, how they dressed and what they ate. Joann also examines their love of poetry, their enthusiasm for interior design and what it was like to work in the Valley of the Kings. (R)

9.15 Andrew Marr's Great Scots: The Writers Who Shaped a Nation. The life of Walter Scott, the prolific novelist and poet who wrote swashbuckling tales of romance and derring-do. However, Andrew Marr reveals his lesser-known side as a political fixer who believed in a proud Scotland inside the UK. Scott brought George IV to his home country and, swathing him in tartan, created an enduring myth of Scotland as a place of romance populated by a brave race doing brave deeds, all clad in kilts.

10.15 QI XL. Stephen Fry presents an extended version of the quiz, and poses some unusual questions about jelly, jam and juice to Jo Brand, Liza Tarbuck, Sue Perkins and Alan Davies. (R)

11.00 Film: Insomnia. (2002) Christopher Nolan's thriller, starring Al Pacino and the late Robin Williams.

12.50 Film: The Sheltering Sky. (1990)

3.05 This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Pat & Stan. **6.10** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.20** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.25** Dino Dan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.50** Canimals. (R) **6.55** Canimals. (R) **7.05** Sooty. (R) **7.15** Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.25** Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.40** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.55** Chowder. (R) **8.10** Chowder. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** The Hungry Sailors. (R) **10.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.25** ITV News; Weather. **11.35 Film:** Columbo: No Time to Die. (1992) **1.20 Film:** The Mighty Ducks. (1992) Ice-hockey comedy, starring Emilio Estevez. **3.25** Weekend Escapes with Warwick Davis. (R) **3.55 Film:** Murder on the Orient Express. (1974) Agatha Christie mystery, starring Albert Finney and the late Lauren Bacall.

6.20 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.30 ITV News; Weather.

6.45 You've Been Framed! Top Tens. Comedian Harry Hill unveils some of his favourite comical clips, featuring shocks and surprises, madcap pets and dramatic falls, as he narrates a selection of viewer-submitted videos. (R)

7.45 Tipping Point: Lucky Stars. Comedienne Jo Brand, former England rugby union player Ben Cohen and Dragons' Den investor Kelly Hoppen take turns on the arcade-style token-pushing machine. Dropping counters down a choice of four chutes, the celebrity contestants hope to knock piles of them off a moving shelf – and the more they collect, the better their chances of scooping the £20,000 prize for a charity of their choice. Game show, hosted by Ben Shephard. Last in the series.

8.45 All Star Family Fortunes. EastEnders' June Brown (Dot Branning) and Blue singer Simon Webbe team up with their relatives in a bid to win £30,000 for their chosen charities. Vernon Kay hosts. (R)

9.45 Film: Star Wars: Episode VI – Return of the Jedi. (1983) The rebel heroes set out to rescue Han Solo before a final decisive battle with the forces of the evil Empire. Sci-fi adventure sequel, with Mark Hamill and Harrison Ford. Continues after the News.

10.45 ITV News; Weather.

11.00 Film: Star Wars: Episode VI – Return of the Jedi. (1983) Cocluded.

12.30 Jackpot247.

CHANNEL 4

6.00 Close. **6.05** Trans World Sport. **7.00** Tri Liverpool. **7.55** The Morning Line. **8.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.25** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.50** Frasier. (R) **10.20** Frasier. (R) **10.50** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.15** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.40** The Simpsons. (R) **12.10** The Simpsons. (R) **12.40** Heston's Great British Food. (R) **1.40** Channel 4 Racing. Coverage of live racing from York and Goodwood. **4.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.40** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.40** Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.15 Come Dine with Me. Double-glazing salesman Richard Deeping hosts the final party in Leicester, and hopes to impress with his culinary prowess before the winner is announced. (R)

6.40 Channel 4 News.

7.05 The Restoration Man. George Clarke follows Vanessa Ford Robbins and partner Nik Huddy's project to restore a Victorian gate lodge located on the boundaries of a country estate in Surrey. (R)

8.00 Grand Designs. Kevin McCloud follows the progress of Brighton couple Daren Howarth and Adi Nortje, who want to build an earth-sheltered home from recycled materials, based on ideas pioneered in New Mexico in the 1970s. However, land prices and planning laws have forced the pair out of England and into Brittany. To keep costs down, Daren and Adi enlist the help of unskilled volunteers to work on the house, in exchange for teaching them the construction techniques. (R)

9.00 Film: Red Lights. (2012) Premiere. A famous blind psychic returns to the public arena 30 years after his career ended in scandal and a suspicious death. A paranormal investigator ignores his mentor's warnings and tries to expose the spiritualist as a fraud, a task that sets him on a dangerous path. Thriller, starring Cillian Murphy, Sigourney Weaver and Robert De Niro.

11.15 Psychopath Night. Documentary going inside the minds of psychopaths, finding out how to spot them and counting down the top 10 mentally deranged movie characters, as selected by experts. (R)

1.05 The Last Leg. (R) **1.50** Homeland. (R) **2.45** Hollyoaks. **4.55** Phil Spencer: Secret Agent. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **9.55** Access. **10.00** Hercules the Human Bear. (R) **10.55** The Dog Rescuers with Alan Davies. (R) **11.55** Extreme Nightmare Neighbours Next Door. (R) **12.55 Film:** White Fang 2: The Myth of the White Wolf. (1994) Adventure sequel, starring Scott Bairstow. **3.00 Film:** The Wizard of Oz. (1939) Musical fantasy, starring Judy Garland. **5.00 Film:** Michael Jackson's This Is It. (2009) Documentary following the singer in rehearsal.

7.10 ABBA @ 40: The Abba Years. Documentary exploring the history of the Swedish band and the careers of Agnetha Faltskog, Bjorn Ulvaeus, Benny Andersson and Anni-Frid Lyngstad after their split in 1982. The film charts their rise to fame after coming together as a band and winning the Eurovision Song Contest in 1974 with Waterloo, and the success in the years that followed, in which they sold 360 million records. Featuring interviews with all four members, and a look behind the scenes at the musical Mamma Mia! that shows Bjorn and Benny working with the theatre team. Featuring contributions by Bono and Pete Waterman. Shown as part of Sing-a-long Saturday. (R)

8.05 ABBA @ 40: Live at Wembley. A recording of the Swedish band in concert during their six-night residence at London's Wembley Arena in November 1979. Featuring performances of hits including Voulez-Vous, Knowing Me, Knowing You, Gimme! Gimme! Gimme! (A Man After Midnight), SOS, Take a Chance on Me, Dancing Queen and Waterloo. Shown as part of Sing-a-long Saturday. (R)

9.05 5 News Weekend.

9.10 Celebrity Big Brother. Highlights of another day in the celebrity-filled house, including a chance to see the events leading up to the first eviction and what happened afterwards. Did the result go down well with all the remaining contestants, or did arguments break out in the small hours?

10.10 Rob Brydon Live.

11.10 Autopsy: Michael Jackson's Last Hours. (R)

12.10 Celebrity Big Brother's Bit on the Psych. **1.10** SuperCasino. **3.10** Celebrity Big Brother. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **5.15** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three

7.00 Greg & Jen @ Reading **8.00** Foster the People & Imagine Dragons @ Reading **9.00** Jake Bugg & Bombay Bicycle Club @ Reading **10.00** Arctic Monkeys @ Reading **11.50** Family Guy **1.40** American Dad! **2.20** Sexy Beasts **2.50** Russell Howard's Good News **3.50** Close

BBC Four

7.00 Human Planet **8.00** Tales from the National Parks **9.00** Inspector Montalbano **10.50** Boogie Fever: A TOTP2 Disco Special **12.20** Queens of Disco **1.20** Sounds of the 70s 2 Soul – Keep on Keeping On **1.50** Human Planet **2.50** Tales from the National Parks **3.50** Close

ITV2

11.15 Take Me Out **12.25** Dinner Date: Australia **1.20** You've Been Framed Rides Again! **2.25** You've Been Framed! Full Throttle **3.30 Film:** Nancy Drew (2007) **5.30** You've Been Framed! **6.35 Film:** King Kong (2005) **10.00 Film:** Hostage (2005) **12.20 Film:** State of Play (2009) **2.45** Kylie Minogue: The Hot Desk

ITV3

11.05 Film: Carry On Jack (1963) **12.55** Pollyanna **3.00** A Touch of Frost **7.05** Lewis **9.00** Foyle's War **11.00** Bomb Girls **12.00 Film:** Columbo: The Bye-Bye Sky-High IQ Murder Case (1977) **1.25** World Kitchen **2.15** ITV3 Nightscreen

ITV4

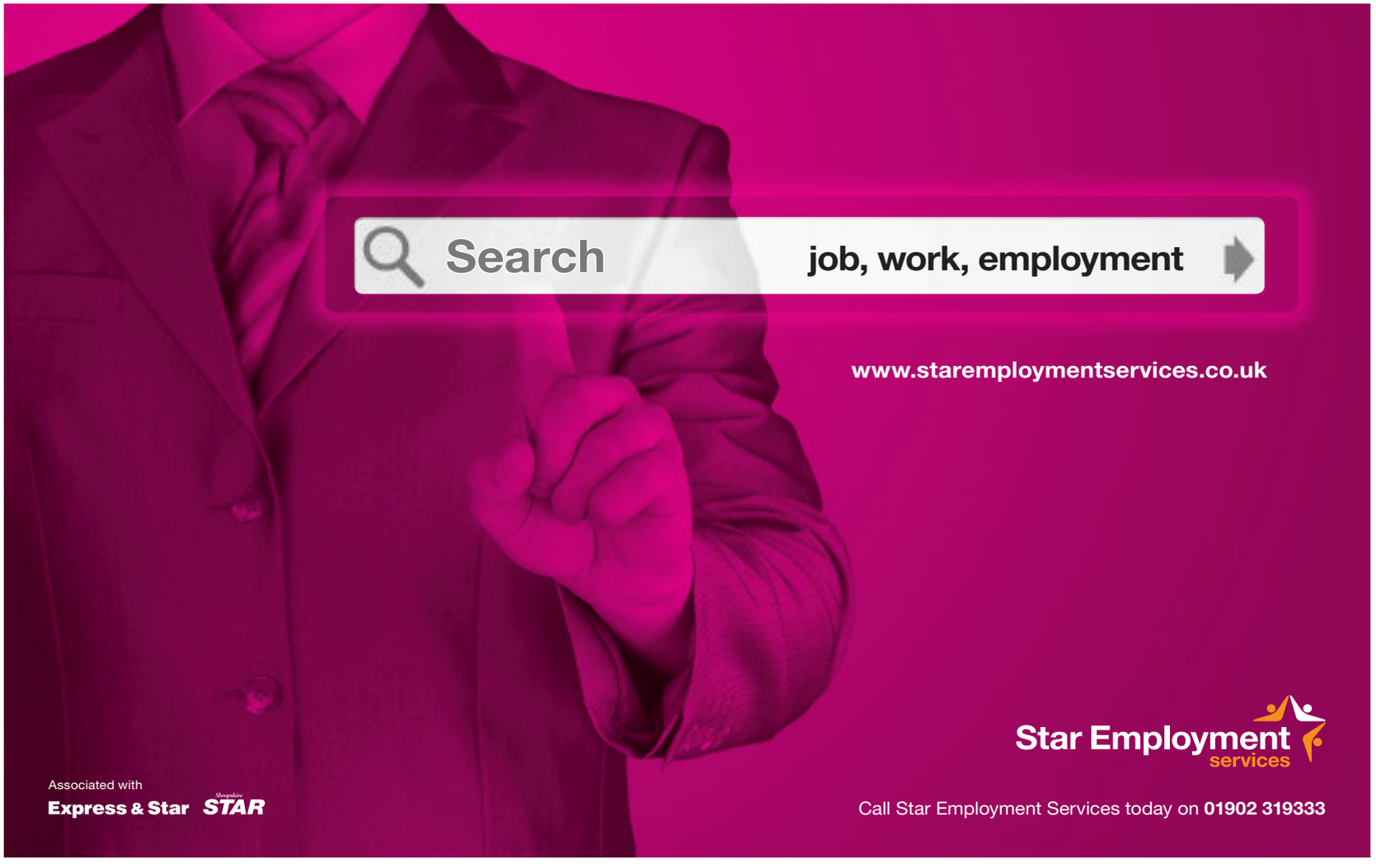
12.40 Film: Destry (1954) **2.35 Film:** Nevada Smith (1966) **5.10** The Motorbike Show **6.15** Storage Wars **7.15 Film:** Casino Royale (1967) **10.00** Cycling: Vuelta a Espana **11.05 Film:** Boogeyman (2004) **12.50** Cycling: Vuelta a Espana **1.55** Police, Camera, Action! **2.20** Cheers **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen

E4

11.30 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **12.30** The Big Bang Theory **1.30 Film:** Diary of a Wimpy Kid (2010) **3.25** The Big Bang Theory **4.25** Melissa & Joey **5.30** Made in Chelsea NYC **6.35** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **7.05** The 100 **8.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** Die Hard 4.0 (2007) **11.35** The Big Bang Theory **12.30** Virtually Famous **1.20** Almost Royal **1.50** How I Met Your Mother

Film4

11.00 Meet Dave (2008) **12.50** X-Men: First Class Special **1.00** Toys (1992) **3.25** Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian (2009) **5.30** Marmaduke (2010) **7.15** Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer (2007) **9.00** The Hole (2009) **10.50** Underworld: Awakening (2012) **12.30** Shutter (2008)



CHOICE

Matthew McNulty

The Mill (Channel 4, 8pm)
When the strikers form a line outside the gates, William enlists a band of men to break the stand-off, joined by John's special constables. A violent confrontation follows and Daniel is arrested - but calls for the workers to keep fighting. While Esther is attending the union meeting in Manchester in his place, Susannah looks after baby Billy, who has become critically ill. Elsewhere, more information comes to light about Peter's background, but before he can learn the truth, Hannah's sickness takes a turn for the worse. Starring Kerrie Hayes, Lauren McQueen, Connor Dempsey, Mark Frost, Joshua Isherwood, Ewan Phillips, Katherine Rose Morley, Justin Salinger, Barbara Marten, Holly Kenny, Sope Dirisu and Matthew McNulty.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.40** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** BBC News. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.10** Live Formula 1: Belgian Grand Prix. Coverage from the Spa-Francorchamps circuit (Start-time 1.00pm). **3.30** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.30** The Great British Bake Off. (R) **5.30** Songs of Praise.

6.05 Deadly on a Mission: Pole to Pole. On a jungle expedition in Guyana, Steve Backshall encounters an ant with the world's most painful sting and explores below the water of the rainforest rivers. Last in the series.

6.35 BBC News; Regional News.

7.00 Nature's Miracle Orphans. Part one of two. Presenters Ellie Harrison and Max Hug Williams follow orphaned baby animals as they make steps to return to the wild. Ellie travels to Australia to meet three koalas called Tilly, Puddles and Danny, who were rescued from the roadside where their mother had been killed – Danny needs around-the-clock care and is building up his strength with night-time games of chase. She also meets a tiny wallaby called Neil whose carer Stella is worried may die from stress if they can't find him a companion. Elsewhere, wildlife cameraman Max is in Costa Rica where he gets acquainted with Newbie, a five-month-old three-toed sloth, who has suffered from pneumonia since she was rescued. He follows wildlife manager Sam at Kids Saving The Rainforest as she tries to teach the baby sloth to climb trees and learn to go back to the wild.

8.00 Countryfile. John Craven and Anita Rani explore the foodie culture of Herefordshire, meeting farmer Simon Cutter and his pure-bred cattle and a botanist extracting natural goodness from fields.

9.00 The Village. Grace becomes increasingly impressed by Bill's left-wing ideas as polling day approaches, John makes a success of the dairy farm and Clem finds the perfect match for Edmund.

10.00 BBC News

10.25 Match of the Day 2.

11.35 Match of the Day at 50. (R)

12.35 Weather for the Week Ahead.

12.40 BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 Countryfile. (R) **7.00** Alan Titchmarsh's Garden Secrets. (R) **8.00** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.30** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.00** The Football League Show. (R) **10.20** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.50** Coast. **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. With Mark Chapman and the Match of the Day team. **1.00** Food & Drink. (R) **1.30** Sweets Made Simple. (R) **2.00** Flog It! Trade Secrets. **2.30** Live Athletics. The British Athletics Grand Prix.

7.00 Formula 1: Belgian Grand Prix – Highlights. Suzi Perry introduces action from the Spa-Francorchamps circuit, where the 12th meeting of the season took place. This was the first race since the summer break, which came after the Hungarian Grand Prix, and Daniel Ricciardo was aiming to repeat his thrilling win at the Hungaroring, while Mercedes drivers Lewis Hamilton and Nico Rosberg resumed their duel for the title. With commentary by Ben Edwards and David Coulthard, and analysis by Eddie Jordan.

8.00 Dragons' Den. More people bid to win funding for their projects from the panel, including a returning entrepreneur with an outdoor space-saving device, a golfing duo with a new take on the traditional tee, and a designer who has flipped the conventional umbrella on its head. The Dragons also come face to face with a fellow multimillionaire and the Den is filled with children's teepees. With a fair amount of game playing, gambling and bargaining taking place, will anyone manage to secure a deal? Evan Davis presents.

9.00 James May's Cars of the People. James explores how aspiration and new wealth inspired some of the greatest vehicles ever made and also unveils his choice of the ultimate people's car. Last in the series.

10.00 An Adventure in Space and Time. Drama written by Mark Gatiss telling the story of how sci-fi series Doctor Who was first brought to the screen in November 1963. Starring David Bradley and Brian Cox. (R)

11.30 Film: The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy. (2005) Sci-fi comedy, starring Martin Freeman and Bill Nighy.

1.10 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **2.05** Holby City. (R) **3.05** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Pat & Stan. **6.10** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.20** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.25** Dino Dan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.50** Canimals. (R) **6.55** Canimals. (R) **7.05** Sooty. (R) **7.15** Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.25** Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.40** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.55** Chowder. (R) **8.10** Chowder. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** May the Best House Win. (R) **10.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.20** ITV News; Weather. **11.30** River Monsters. (R) **12.30** Long Lost Family. (R) **1.30 Film:** Columbo Goes to the Guillotine. (1989) Detective drama, starring Peter Falk. **3.30** Midsomer Murders. (R) **5.30** Tipping Point. (R)

6.35 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.45 ITV News; Weather.

7.00 Come On Down! The Game Show Story. Bradley Walsh looks at the role played by contestants in creating game-show history across the decades. He meets the team whose bizarre answers featured in one of the most memorable editions of Family Fortunes, and hears how Bullseye brought a new level of frustration to participants when Jim Bowen showed them what they could have won. He talks to people famous for their losing TV appearances, including the teacher labelled "Disastermind" by the press and the founding member of the Deal or No Deal 1p Club. Bradley also joins forces with three pros to take on all-comers in a pub quiz. With contributions by Ant and Dec, Nick Knowles, Richard Osman, Vernon Kay and other small-screen stars.

8.00 The Zoo. The giraffe herd at Whipsnade has a new arrival in need of urgent help – the calf has problems with its legs and is unable to suckle from its mother. Last in the series.

9.00 The Great War: The People's Story. A young woman (Claire Foy) seizes the chance to work in arms factories, a country vicar (Brian Cox) writes about men leaving for war and a servant (Amy Morgan) falls for a soldier.

10.00 ITV News; Weather.

10.15 Kids with Cameras: Diary of a Children's Ward.

11.15 The Cube. A sales assistant and a police officer try to complete a series of increasingly difficult tasks in the hope of winning a jackpot of £250,000. (R)

12.10 The Store.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.35** British F3. **7.05** Outlaw Triathlon. **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R) **1.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.55** The Simpsons. (R) **3.25 Film:** Runaway Bride. (1999) Romantic comedy, with Julia Roberts and Richard Gere. **5.40** Deal or No Deal.

6.35 Channel 4 News.

7.00 How Britain Worked. Engineering enthusiast Guy Martin celebrates the workers of the Industrial Revolution by recreating some of the 19th century's most impressive technical achievements. Along the way he focuses on the unsung heroes of the time – the men, women and children who worked 14 hours a day for little pay to create extraordinary marvels that changed the country for ever. He begins by overhauling a steam locomotive currently in use on the Severn Valley Railway, repairing its boiler, safety valves and one of its two-ton wheels. He also lays some track using the same methods as the notorious "navvies" – the notorious, hard-living labourers who put together Britain's entire railway infrastructure by hand. (R)

8.00 The Mill. As tensions escalate during the strike, a violent confrontation leads to Daniel's arrest. Susanna looks after Esther's baby, who has become critically ill. Last in the series.

9.00 Film: The Cold Light of Day. (2012) Premiere. A man on a sailing holiday in Spain discovers his family have been abducted. His search for them leads him to learn that his father has been leading a double-life as a CIA agent, and has stolen top-secret information – which the kidnappers will stop at nothing to obtain. Thriller, starring Henry Cavill, Bruce Willis and Sigourney Weaver.

10.50 Film: Skyline. (2010) Sci-fi thriller, with Eric Balfour and Scottie Thompson.

12.35 First Time Farmers. (R) **1.30** The Million Pound Drop. (R) **2.25** The Hoarder Next Door. (R) **3.20** Phil Spencer: Secret Agent. (R) **4.15** Kirstie's Vintage Gems. **4.30** Gordon Ramsay's Home Cooking. (R) **5.00** Deal or No Deal. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Abby's Flying Fairy School. (R) **6.25** Bubble Guppies. (R) **6.35** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.50** Chloe's Closet. (R) **7.05** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.10** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.25** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.35** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **7.40** City of Friends. (R) **7.55** Little Princess. (R) **8.10** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.20** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **8.25** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.45** Rupert Bear. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.30** LazyTown. (R) **10.00** Highland Emergency. (R) **10.30** Police Interceptors. (R) **11.25** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.25** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.25 Film:** Beverly Hills Chihuahua 2. (2011) Premiere. Comedy, starring Marcus Coloma. **3.05 Film:** Holes. (2003) Family adventure, starring Shia LaBeouf. **5.15 Film:** A Cinderella Story. (2004) Romantic comedy, starring Hilary Duff and Chad Michael Murray.

7.05 Film: Legally Blonde. (2001) A seemingly dizzy teenager is heartbroken when her boyfriend dumps her because he thinks she is not intelligent enough to help his political career. To prove him wrong she enrols at Harvard, but finds herself out of her depth as other students do their best to humiliate her. Comedy, starring Reese Witherspoon, Luke Wilson, Selma Blair, Matthew Davis and Victor Garber. Edited for language.

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Celebrity Big Brother. The ups and downs of life in the BB house as friendships and alliances are made, battle lines are drawn and arguments erupt.

10.00 Film: Under Siege. (1992) A veteran US Navy Seal working on a battleship as a cook leaps into action to liberate the vessel from terrorists. Action adventure, starring Steven Seagal and Tommy Lee Jones. Edited for language.

11.55 Film: Point Break. (1991) An undercover FBI agent infiltrates a Californian surfing gang to investigate a spate of armed robberies. Kathryn Bigelow's thriller, starring Keanu Reeves and Patrick Swayze.

2.10 SuperCasino. **3.10** Woman on the Rampage: Killing Spree. **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **5.15** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Maverick Sabre & Clean Bandit @ Reading **8.00** The Kooks & You Me at Six @ Reading **9.00** Our World War **10.00** Family Guy **10.45** Siblings **11.15** Cuckoo **11.45** Blink 182 & Disclosure @ Reading **12.45** American Dad! **1.30** Sexy Beasts **2.00** Siblings **2.30** Cuckoo **3.00** Impractical Jokers **3.30** Sexy Beasts **4.00** Close

BBC Four
7.00 The Sunday Prom: Elgar's Cello Concerto **9.05** Definitely Dusty **10.05 Film:** Cafe de Flore (2011) **12.00** The Kate Bush Story: Running Up That Hill **1.00** Kate Bush at the BBC **2.00** The Joy of Abba **3.00** Definitely Dusty **4.00** Close

ITV2
11.55 America's Got Talent **2.30** Ultimate You've Been Framed **3.30 Film:** Horrid Henry: The Movie (2011) **5.25 Film:** Beethoven (1991) **7.15 Film:** Jurassic Park III (2001) **9.00 Film:** Miss Congeniality 2: Armed and Fabulous (2005) **11.15 Film:** The Butterfly Effect (2004) **1.35** The Big Reunion 2014 **2.30** You've Been Framed! **2.55** Teleshopping **5.55** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3
11.50 Wycliffe **1.00 Film:** Thoroughly Modern Millie (1967) **3.50 Film:** Summer Holiday (1963) **6.00 Film:** Columbo: Now You See Him (1976) **8.00** Lewis **10.00 Film:** City of Angels (1998) **12.20** William and Mary **1.20** Pollyanna **3.05** ITV3 Nightscreen **3.40** Emmerdale

ITV4
6.00 BRDC Formula 4 Championship Highlights **7.00** Cycling: Vuelta a Espana **8.00** Ray Mears' Close Encounters **9.00 Film:** Spy Game (2001) **11.35** Hell on Wheels **12.35** River Monsters **1.40** Movies Now **1.50** Cycling: Vuelta a Espana **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen

E4
12.30 Made in Chelsea NYC **1.30** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **2.30** Suburgatory **3.00** The Mindy Project **3.30** New Girl **4.00** The Big Bang Theory **5.00** The 100 **6.00** Rude(ish) Tube **7.00 Film:** Honey, I Shrunk the Kids (1989) **9.00** Made in Chelsea NYC **10.00** Almost Royal **10.35** The Big Bang Theory **11.35** Virtually Famous **12.25** Rules of Engagement

Film4
11.00 Written on the Wind (1956) **1.00** Journey to the Center of the Earth (2008) **2.50** Black Knight (2001) **4.40** Edward Scissorhands (1990) **6.50** 27 Dresses (2008) **9.00** The Haunting in Connecticut (2009) **11.00** Raging Balls of Steel Justice **11.15** R100 (2013)

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
The Sorcerer's Apprentice, BBC1, 1.30pm
A wizard living secretly in modern-day New York vows to prevent his mystical enemy from taking over the city. Realising that he is unable to complete the task alone, he recruits an ordinary teenager to be his assistant, teaching him to master the magical arts. Fantasy adventure, starring Nicolas Cage, Jay Baruchel and Alfred Molina. (2010)

TUESDAY
Seventeen and Missing, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A mother with clairvoyant abilities is distraught when her teenage daughter goes missing. She finds herself plagued by traumatic visions of the girl's abduction, which might provide the vital clue to rescuing her, and turns to her estranged husband for help in tracking down their child. Thriller, starring Dedee Pfeiffer, Matthew Harrison and Tegan Moss. (2006)

WEDNESDAY
Our Children, Channel 4, 1.10am
A woman marries a Moroccan immigrant and together they move into the home of his adoptive father. She is left feeling increasingly isolated living a household in which they have become trapped, driving her to contemplate killing her five children. Fact-based drama, starring Emilie Dequenne, Tahar Rahim and Niels Arestrup. In French and Arabic. (2012)

The Invention of Lying, Friday, ITV, 10.40pm

THURSDAY
The Hunted, BBC1, 11.35pm
A traumatised special forces soldier regresses to a feral existence in an isolated area of woodland. Increasingly unhinged, he starts to pick off anyone who strays into his path, prompting the mentor who trained him in hand-to-hand armed combat to track him down before the authorities take drastic action. Action thriller, with Tommy Lee Jones, Benicio Del Toro, Connie Nielsen and Mark Pelegrino. (2003)

FRIDAY
The Invention of Lying, ITV, 10.40pm
In a world where everyone always tells the truth, a failed documentary writer learns how to lie. Since no one else knows what deception is, his most ludicrous inventions are taken at face value, making him a huge success - and ultimately leading to him starting his own religion. Comedy, starring Ricky Gervais and Jennifer Garner. (2009)

PICK OF THE WEEK

Series continues to prove a novel success

A year ago, Channel 5 brought us one of the most enjoyably bonkers fantasy sagas of the year. Based on the novel by Stephen King, Under the Dome was one of those glorious 'What if?'-style dramas popularised in The Twilight Zone.

In this case, the 'what if?' being: a hemispherical force field. It appeared out of nowhere and trapped the residents of small American town Chester's Mill. Once comparisons with The Simpsons Movie faded, UDT became must-see viewing for viewers who don't take their fantasy TV too seriously.

It didn't just raise questions such as 'What created the dome', or 'Was it impassable?', but 'Would rain pass through the force field?' and 'What happened when the food and resources ran out?'

It didn't hurt that there was eye candy for both sexes, from hunky, shady ex-soldier Barbie (Mike Vogel) to flame-haired investigative reporter Julia Shumway (Rachel LeFevre).

And as every good drama needs a larger-than-life villain, Breaking Bad veteran Dean Norris proved perfect as politician/used car dealer 'Big Jim' Rennie.

Okay, some Stephen King purists may have argued that it's not as good as the 2009 source novel, but given the fact most King-inspired TV strands have been a let down, it proved more compelling than most.

Series one of Under the Dome was bursting with memorable moments, from a cow sliced in half when the hemisphere first appeared, to the man whose pacemaker exploded in his chest. It was the show where anything could, and probably would happen.

Admittedly it wasn't perfect, but it kept many fans coming back for more week after week, and series two looks like it could be equally compelling. It picks up directly from where the first series left off.

Chester's Mill is now bathed in a blinding white light as the Dome starts to change. It becomes opaque, and starts emitting a regular electromagnetic pulse.

Pink stars have fallen in lines as a result of Julia throwing the egg into the lake, and Barbie is awaiting execution on the scaffold after Big Jim accused him of murder.

Of course the ongoing success of this series has meant Mike Vogel's own star is definitely on the rise.

"What I love about this show, it's very real characters reacting to a very unreal event," he explains. Mike is no stranger to working in Blighty, having made a film with Jamie Murray called The Deaths of Ian Stone. If UDT's schedule allows, he'd love to return to the UK for a new project. "I love England and I love English actors," he explains. "There is a richness and a tradition in the craft that you get with English actors that I don't see a lot with my American counterparts. It's always refreshing to me."

New 'Dome' cast additions should help make this second run equally refreshing.

Look out for former ER star Sherry Stringfield as Big Jim's 'late' wife Pauline, while country music superstar Dwight Yoakam plays the delightfully named town barber, Lyle Chumley.

Mike Vogel stars in Under the Dome, Monday, Channel 5, 10pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Scotland Decides: Salmond versus Darling
BBC2, 8.30pm
As the people of Scotland prepare to vote in next month's referendum on whether to break away from the rest of the UK, Glenn Campbell chairs the second debate between First Minister Alex Salmond and Better Together leader Alistair Darling. The SNP leader and the former chancellor of the exchequer will lay out their competing visions for the future of Scotland in front of a specially invited audience at Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum in Glasgow.

Gadget Man
Channel 4, 8.30pm
New series. Richard Ayoade returns with the show exploring the world of technology, from the everyday to the extraordinary. In the first edition, he takes on the worst of the British climate, braving a hurricane in a wind tunnel with the help of Tim Vine to assess the best in gust-busting gadgetry. He's also joined by Marcus Brigstocke at the Hemel Hempstead Snow Centre to pressure-test cold-weather technology.

TUESDAY
Super Senses: The Secret Power of Animals
BBC2, 9pm
Biologist Patrick Aryee and physicist Helen Czerski continue their exploration of the world of animal senses by investigating sound - from the deepest rumbles to the highest squeaks - using specialised technology to detect noises beyond the range of human hearing. They reveal how alligators use low-pitch sounds to make the water around them 'dance', show what it is like to be a bat and see with echo-location, and convert a classic camper van into a giant speaker to conduct the ultimate hearing test for a herd of elephants.

WEDNESDAY
Addicts' Symphony
Channel 4, 11pm
Okay, so you'd never have thought the words 'addict' and 'classical music' go well together in the same sentence, but composer and musician James McConnel is about to enlighten us as to why they do. You see, he's examining music's many transformative uses by bringing together 10 classical musicians who have all been affected by addiction – and they will be performing alongside the London Symphony Orchestra. Every musician is trying to break free of addiction – some have been sober for years, while others only a few months – and James, a recovering alcoholic himself, wants to prove just how big a part music can play in an addict's recovery.

THURSDAY
Who Do You Think You Are?
BBC1, 9pm
Irish comedian Brendan O'Carroll, best known as his alter ego Mrs Brown and star of the BBC sitcom Mrs Brown's Boys, tries to find out the truth about his grandfather's murder, and attempts to uncover the identities of the men responsible. Shopkeeper Peter O'Carroll was killed in October 1920 at the height of the Irish War of Independence, and the Dublin-born actor begins his journey of discovery with only a newspaper article from the time and the words 'shot during the curfew' from Peter's gravestone.

Who Do You Think You Are? Thursday, BBC1, 9pm

FRIDAY
Micky Flanagan: Back in the Game
Channel 4, 9pm
Cockney comic Mickey Flanagan came to his stand-up career relatively late in life. After working variously as a porter at Billingsgate Fish Market, a dishwasher, a window cleaner and a furniture maker, he tried his hand at comedy aged 35. It didn't take him too long to find his feet, and now he's one of the scene's biggest names. In fact, last year's Back in the Game tour was the biggest comedy event of 2013, playing to more than half a million people across the UK and Ireland. The show featured his best material to date, and for anyone who's only ever seen him on the myriad panel shows that seemed to help launch his televisual career, this is a must-see.

Big School
BBC1, 9.30pm
New series. Return of the classroom comedy, starring David Walliams. When Miss Postern sets up a careers workshop, it seems her slogan 'Which Way Now?' applies as much to her as it does to the pupils, not least because the guest speaker is her old teacher-training colleague - and now best-selling children's author - Fenella Forbes (played by Morgana Robinson). Meanwhile, her relationship with Mr Church has taken a downward turn after a misunderstanding over a date. On the upside, the future is looking bright for one member of staff, as Mr Martin prepares to launch a pop career. With Catherine Tate, Daniel Rigby and Philip Glenister.

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Fancy a slice of our dream fund? The Express & Star has teamed up with HomeServe to give away an astounding £30,000 to local community groups!

We are backing organisations from around our circulation area running or planning projects that will benefit their local community.

From charities to support groups, youth clubs to sports teams, we are now accepting applications from organisations wishing to take part in our Cash For Your Community campaign. A maximum of only 100 organisations can take part, so it's crucial you act fast and register now.

Every eligible organisation/group will receive a slice of £27,000 based upon the proportion of the total number of tokens they collect.

As a bonus, the top three groups collecting the most tokens will also receive an additional £1,000. Tokens will be printed in the Express & Star from Monday, September 29 until Saturday, November 1, 2014.

In order for your tokens to count, you must be registered, so fill in the form today and send it to:

Cash For Your Community, Express & Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

The deadline for registrations is 5pm, Saturday, September 13, 2014.

Registrations must be received by 5pm, Saturday, September 13, 2014. Registrations will only be accepted when signed by an authorised officer of the community group who is over the age of 18 on the official registration form. This will be printed in the Express & Star on a regular basis from August 18 until September 10 2014 and online or until the first 100 eligible groups have registered. Your community group must have a constitution which details who the members/trustees/directors are, have a set of audited accounts and a bank account in the name of the group with at least two non-related signatories. The campaign is only open to not-for-profit community groups, charities or social enterprise organisations whose main activities are based in the circulation area of the Express & Star.The first 100 verified community groups will be eligible to take part. Eligibility will also be based upon how the prize money will be spent as described on this form which will be assessed by a panel of judges. The judges' decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. Participating groups will be showcased in the Express & Star, online and via social media throughout the duration of the campaign and agree to take part in relevant publicity including photographic and video coverage. Full terms and conditions can be found online at www.expressandstar.com/cfyc

Registration Form

Express & Star CASH FOR YOUR COMMUNITY In association with HomeServe

Organisation/Group name _____

Contact Name _____ Your Role _____

Registered Charity Number (if applicable) _____ Correspondence Address _____

_____

_____ Postcode _____

Tel. Number _____ Email Address _____

If your application is successful, name of the community group/charity the cheque will be payable to? _____

_____

Tell us about your group _____

_____

_____

Tell us about your project _____

_____

_____

How will a slice of the dream fund make a difference? _____

_____

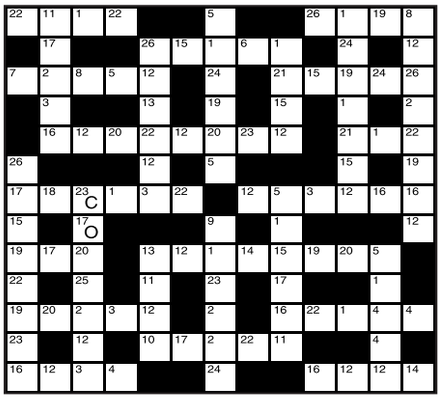
_____

Signature _____ Date _____

BRAIN GYM No.287

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



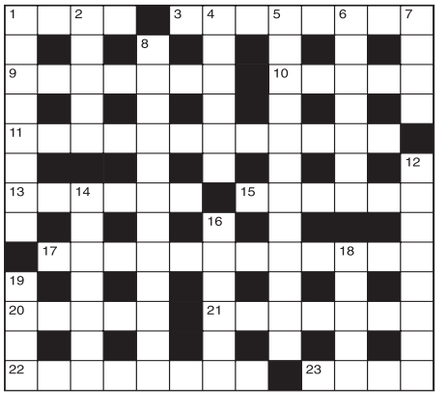
1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17 O
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23 C
11	24
12	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
O	R	P	G	W	J	Q	K	T	X	D	S	Z
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
I	Y	B	N	F	A	H	U	L	C	M	E	V

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. It's a job to send off communications (4)
3. Progressive direction as far as hospital rooms are concerned (8)
9. Row about the return of the doctor is disgusting (7)
10. The result of an addition to the account that's endless (5)
11. Could it be a film of the Scottish mountains? (8,4)
13. Making observations outside the capital of Germany (6)
15. Young animals found in the garbage bin (6)
17. Travel voucher for the bachelor? (6,6)
20. Plenty found among damp leaves (5)
21. May be well patronised at play-time (7)
22. An obstruction on one and all nearly producing aristocratic epithet (8)
23. Those in favour of the pupils, we hear (4)

Down

1. An inclination to write a song (8)
2. A ballistic device used for supporting a member (5)
4. The wettest parts of the earth (6)
5. He's skilled in finding liquid assets (5-7)
6. Withdraw to the monastery, maybe (7)
7. Only sea-food (4)
8. People on this surface are likely to use bias (7-5)
12. Takes trouble about the right union members (8)
14. One on an excursion is a dancer (7)
16. The girl embraced by Robert Harris (6)
18. Common fund for Catherine (5)
19. Sounds like congestion seen at the side of the entrance (4)

Quick Clues:

Across

1. Select (4)
3. Yielded (8)
9. Warlike (7)
10. Move sideways (5)
11. Self-government (12)
13. Unmask (6)
15. Proscribe (6)
17. Decline (12)
20. Accumulate (5)
21. Melancholy (7)
22. Collapse (4,4)
23. Parched (4)

Down

1. Amalgamated (8)
2. Sensational (5)
4. Become less severe (6)
5. Shady (12)
6. Addition to will (7)
7. Action (4)
8. Ousted (12)
12. Cheated (8)
14. Be victorious (7)
16. Grassland (6)
18. Deduce (5)
19. Stray (4)

Sudoku

					2	3		6
	2	6	5				7	
9			7		6			
4	1		9			6		
				5	1		4	
7		9			3		5	1
			3		5			7
	7				4	5	2	
8		3	2					

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

3	4	9	6	5	2	1	8	7
5	7	6	3	1	8	4	2	9
2	8	1	4	9	7	5	6	3
9	6	7	8	3	5	2	4	1
1	2	4	9	7	6	3	5	8
8	3	5	1	2	4	7	9	6
7	9	2	5	6	3	8	1	4
6	5	8	7	4	1	9	3	2
4	1	3	2	8	9	6	7	5

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 6 The buck; 7 Music; 9 Break; 10 Look-out; 12 Legal tender; 14 The Bastille; 18 Drawing; 19 Of day; 21 Lover; 22 Lineage. Down: 1 Sharp; 2 Abrade; 3 Ace; 4 Buskin; 5 Minutes; 8 Contain; 11 Passing; 13 Chariot; 15 Bowler; 16 Lifted; 17 Laugh; 20 Wig. QUICK - Across: 6 Durable; 7 Widen; 9 State; 10 Gainsay; 12 Under stress; 14 Stage player; 18 Protect; 19 Carry; 21 Flour; 22 Collect. Down: 1 Quota; 2 Fasten; 3 Sly; 4 Winner; 5 Relapse; 8 Oarsman; 11 Respect; 13 Sterile; 15 Get out; 16 Enable; 17 Trick; 20 Joy.

Do you organise events?

Get your event listed on all the important sites and publications including The Guardian Guide, Time Out, The List and local press.

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Visit www.listora.me/2014 to list your next event.

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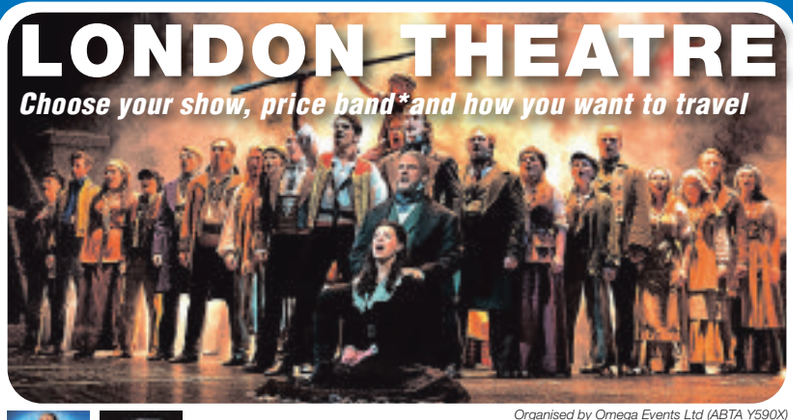

Organised by Omega Events Ltd (ABTA Y590X)

Coach inclusive breaks – Two days Selected weekend departures

Saturday Night from £139.95 Dine and Dance from £149.95

Take in a top West End show and have some free time in London. For the Dine and Dance option see the matinee performance before heading back to the hotel for dinner and disco (conditions apply). For the Saturday Night option see the evening performance. For both breaks the price includes a theatre ticket, overnight stay in a four-star outer London hotel, with full English breakfast (plus dinner for Dine and Dance options). Pick ups offered are Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

Rail inclusive breaks – Two or three days Departures most weekends

Saturday Night Theatre from £149.95

Choose a London hotel and see a Saturday evening performance. Rail travel is standard class with the option to upgrade. Departs Saturday morning/early afternoon from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton, returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening to give plenty of free time for shopping and sightseeing.

Theatre Showstopper from £209.95

Departing from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton on the Friday morning returning Sunday afternoon/early evening. Standard class travel is included with the option to upgrade, plus two nights stay at a London hotel of your choice (hotel supplements may apply). Includes a top priced ticket for the Friday evening performance .

*The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details. Single room supplements apply.

For a theatre brochure call the promotions team on (01902) 319999 (Mon to Fri, 9am to 5pm), or go to expressandstar.com/starextratravel

Please read brochure/web page for full information plus terms and conditions

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Stunning period house with a premier address

A STUNNING period detached house in a premier address in Paganel Drive, Dudley has been tastefully refurbished over the last few years.

It is for sale through Billingham Taylor at £245,000.

It has a porch with solid timber double doors, entrance hallway with feature period stained glass main door and solid wood flooring and stairs off. The bay fronted dining room has double doors into a rear reception room/lounge with a living flame effect fireplace. An extended refitted breakfast kitchen has solid wood shaker-style doors, integrated dishwasher, breakfast bar, tiled flooring, and a pantry. There are three bedrooms and a good sized re-fitted bathroom. There is a superb mature rear garden.

Contact Billingham Taylor on 01384 234900 or visit www.billinghamtaylor.co.uk

Immaculate property sited on a corner plot

AN IMMACULATE three bedroomed semi-detached house in Straits Road, Gornal, lies on a good sized corner plot.

It is for sale through Bakers at £169,950.

With double glazing and central heating it has a reception hall, a rear lounge with a full height feature stone chimney breast and fire surround and a marble hearth, a dining room with a front bow window and a feature brick fire surround with marble hearth and gas fire point.

The kitchen has range of wall and base units with work surfaces over. V door to a sun room, which in turn has ceramic floor tiling and spot lighting. Upstairs are three bedrooms and a bathroom. The is a detached garage and front and rear gardens.

Contact Bakers on 01384 252527 or visit the website www.bakersproperty.co.uk

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NEW

Elgar Crescent

Enjoying a delightful position within this popular sought after established location, this attractive detached family home built by David Payne is conveniently situated for Russells Hall Hospital and other local amenities. The property has been completely redecorated throughout and offers generously proportioned and well planned accommodation, benefitting from double glazing and gas central heating, comprises briefly - reception hall, superb lounge and excellent dining kitchen utility room, ground floor shower room. There are three bedrooms and a house bathroom. Outside the gardens have been recently landscaped with excellent parking facilities to the fore, and integral garage. $Requiring an early inspection to be fully appreciated the property is available immediately and realistically priced at £695.00 per calendar month. To arrange a viewing please contact Peters Estates on 01384 393888.

www.hallsgb.com

Halls 1845

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SALE DAY: FRIDAY 29TH AUGUST 2014

SALE COMMENCES AT 10:15 AM

(New Purchasers Require Proof of Identification)

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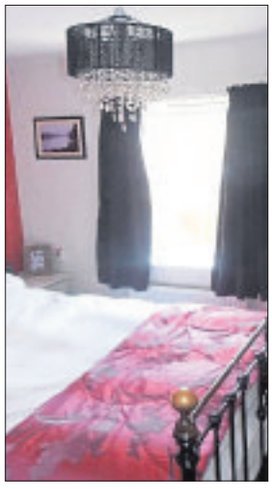
Immaculate end terrace three-bedroom house



AN immaculate modern three-bedroomed end terrace house in Gough Drive, Great Bridge, Tipton, lies on a popular estate.

It is for sale through Skitts Estate Agents at £162,500.

It has double glazing and gas central heating. The entrance hall with stairs and doors to a garage, WC, utility room and study/bedroom four. On the first floor is a lounge area and a kitchen/diner. The second floor has three bedrooms, and a bathroom. There is also a driveway and gardens.

Contact Skitts Estate Agents on 0121 5202255 or visit www.skitts.net

Unfurnished first floor flat in pleasant location

THIS unfurnished first floor one bedroomed flat in Elizabeth Walk, Tipton, lies in a pleasant location.

It is available to rent through Trinity Property at £390 pcm.

Carpeted throughout, its accommodation briefly comprises an open plan kitchen/lounge with a feature fireplace and kitchen with pine effect units and contrasting working surfaces and part splash-back tiling, and a bathroom with a modern shower and a separate WC.

There is a garage and off road parking.

It is available for a long term rent, unfortunately no pets, no DSS or smokers please.

For further information contact Trinity Property on 01384 213395 or visit www.trinityproperty.net

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BRIERLEY HILL

BORROWDALE CLOSE

FOR SALE £224,950

Detached House Includes: Entrance Hall, Cloakroom, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Conservatory, Four Bedrooms, En Suite, Family Bathroom. Benefits Include: Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Garage, Off Road Parking.

WORDSLEY

THE POPLARS

FOR SALE £145,000

Semi detached with No Upward Chain comprises of: Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Benefits include: Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Rear Garden, Integral Garage, Driveway.

BRIERLEY HILL

FOXDALE DRIVE

FOR SALE £62,500

Purpose Built Flat. An Ideal First Purchase with No Upward Chain. Close to Brierley Hill High Street and Merry Hill complex. Comprising of: Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Benefits Include: Off Road Parking, Communal Grounds.

BRIERLEY HILL

FOXDALE DRIVE

FOR SALE £79.950

Well Presented Freehold Cluster Style House To Include: Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom with shower, Benefitting from: Front Garden, Allocated Parking, Double Glazing.

WALL HEATH

FOUNDRY ROAD

FOR SALE £194,950

Beautifully presented semi detached property. Comprising of: Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Conservatory, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom. Benefits include: Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Front & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking.

KINGSWINFORD

MURDOCH DRIVE

FOR SALE £214,950

Coach House Style Property in popular cul de sac. Includes: Hall, Cloakroom, Kitchen/Diner, Lounge, Four Bedrooms, (Master with En Suite), Family Bathroom, Benefits include: Garage, Rear Garden, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing.

WORDSLEY

MEADOW HILL DRIVE

FOR SALE £179,950

Well Presented, Modern Freehold Town House Includes: Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms (En suite to Master), Family Shower Room. Benefits from: Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Off Road Parking and Rear Garden.

LOWER GORNAL

TEMPLE STREET

FOR SALE £99,950

Character Freehold Mid Terrace Property with No Upward Chain. To Include: Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Family Bathroom. Benefits from: Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Long Rear Garden.

BRIERLEY HILL

BROMPTON DRIVE

£575 pcm*

First Floor Flat, Good sized Lounge, Re-Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, Parking to rear.

COSELEY

LILIAN GROVE

£575 pcm*

End Terrace House, Lounge, Kitchen, Diner, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower, Gas Central Heating, Off Road Parking, Front & Rear Garden, Unfurnished

PENSNETT

PRIMROSE PARK

£550 pcm*

Modern Terrace Property, Lounge, Kitchen, WC, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Garden to Rear, Unfurnished, Off Road Parking

DUDLEY

DIBDALE STREET

£585 pcm*

End Terrace Property, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Loft Room, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Rear Garden, Unfurnished

RUSSELLS HALL

MERRYFIELD ROAD

£550 pcm*

Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Dining Room, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Unfurnished, Off Road Parking, Front & Rear Gardens

NETHERTON

CINDERBANK

£200 pcm*

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Main Road Position

NETHERTON

WORCESTER ROAD

£575 pcm*

Semi-Detached House, Lounge, Kitchen, Downstairs Shower Room, Downstairs Toilet, Three Bedrooms, Front & Rear Gardens, Gas Central Heating, Unfurnished

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BRIERLEY HILL

FOXDALE DRIVE

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STOURBRIDGE

RIDGE GROVE

£595 pcm*

Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Cloakroom, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Front & Rear Gardens.

GORNAL

BARR STREET

£545 pcm*

End Terrace Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Rear Garden, Unfurnished, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating

BROCKMOOR

HIGH STREET

£495 pcm*

Terraced Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Dining Room, Bathroom, Three Bedrooms, Gas Central Heating, Rear Garden, Unfurnished.

KINGSWINFORD

GRANTLEY CRESCENT

£825 pcm*

Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Dining Area, Cloakroom, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished

HALESOWEN

BLOOMFIELD ST WEST

£525 pcm*

Terrace Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Rear Garden

WOLLASTON

KINGSWAY

£550 pcm*

FIRST FLOOR FLAT, Entrance Hall, Lounge/Diner, Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom, Maintained Communal Gardens, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing.

HALESOWEN

ATTWOOD STREET

£525 pcm*

Terrace Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Double Glazed, Gas Central Heating, Unfurnished, Rear Garden

(Administration/application fees will apply)

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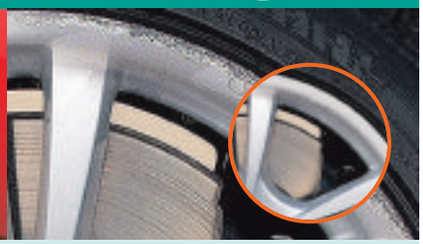

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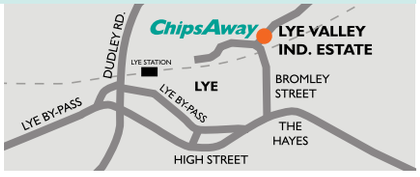

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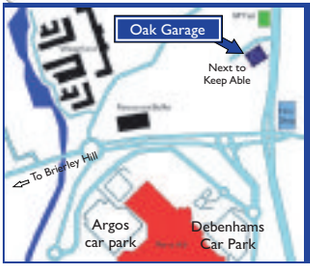

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Fuel consumption figures for the Civic 1.6 i-DTEC Black Special Edition in mpg (l/100km): Urban 70.6 (4.0), Extra Urban 85.6 (3.3), Combined 78.5 (3.6). CO_2 emissions: 94 g/km. Fuel consumption figures sourced from official EU-regulated laboratory test results, are provided for comparison purposes & may not reflect real-life driving experience.

Model Shown: Civic 1.6 i-DTEC Black Special Edition in Crystal Black Pearl at £22,460 On The Road (OTR). **Terms and Conditions:** New retail Civic registered from 1 July 2014 to 30 September 2014. Subject to model and colour availability. Offers applicable at participating dealers and are at the promoter's absolute discretion. **Civic Black Special Edition Honda Aspirations (PCP):** Example shown based on Civic 1.6 i-DTEC Black Special Edition in Crystal Black Pearl at £22,460 total cash price (and total amount payable) with 37 months 0% APR Representative (interest rate per annum 0% fixed) with £0 (0%) deposit, £408.29 monthly payment, Guaranteed Future Value / Optional Final Payment of £7,761.73 annual mileage of 10,000 and excess mileage charge: 6p per mile. You do not have to pay the Final Payment if you return the car at the end of the agreement and you have paid all other amounts due, the vehicle is in good condition and has been serviced in accordance with the Honda service book and the maximum annual mileage has not been exceeded. Indemnities may be required in certain circumstances. Finance is only available to persons aged 18 or over, subject to status. All figures are correct at time of publication but may be subject to change. Credit provided by Honda Finance Europe Plc. 470 London Road, Slough, Berkshire SL3 8QY. Honda Finance Europe Plc. is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority, Financial Services Register number 312541. **The 5 Year Care Package includes: Servicing:** All scheduled servicing, as detailed in the vehicles service book, will be covered for 5 years or 62,500 miles, whichever comes fi rst. **Warranty:** In addition to the standard 3 year warranty the customer will receive a complimentary 2 year extended guarantee taking the warranty to 5 years or 90,000 miles, whichever comes fi rst. **Roadside Assist:** In addition to the standard 3 years roadside assistance package the customer will receive complimentary Hondacare Assistance for a further 2 years, taking it to 5 years or 90,000 miles, whichever comes fi rst. **The 5 Year Care Package:** The 5 Year Care Package is optional. It is **being offered for £555 including VAT** (usual value £1,845 including VAT, resulting in a £1,290 saving for the customer) and is available to finance or non-finance customers. Please note, should you sell the vehicle during the period of cover, the package remains with the vehicle.

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Mokka - a practical choice

By James Parker

Mokka buyers are people likely to be enthusiasts for life rather than for cars. So they may not care that this car isn't quite as sharp and wieldy as a rival Nissan Juke, nor does it have the 'big SUV' polish of a comparable Skoda Yeti. Instead, there's a potentially pleasing compromise between the two.

Under the bonnet, there are three main engine options, the most affordable, as ever, being the least desirable of the trio, the 2WD-only 115PS petrol 1.6-litre variant which, with only 155Nm of torque, needs to be rowed along a little with the gear lever – a stick that only offers you five speeds.

A better bet for petrol people is the Mokka we tried, the 140PS 1.4-litre turbo. Sixty is just 9.4s away enroute to 118mph, so it's usefully more rapid, and there's a healthier 200Nm of torque. Despite all this and the standard inclusion of 4WD, the provision of a 6-speed gearbox and more modern mechanicals mean that this pokier 1.4 is actually cheaper to run than the feebler 1.6.

The most practical engine choice though is the one most buyers will probably select, the 130PS 1.7-litre CDTi diesel capable of a top speed of around 116mph and rest to sixty in around 10s.

Pulling

You get all the main mechanical choices with this unit – so you can specify your car with 6-speed manual or automatic transmission and with or without 4WD. Perhaps more importantly, you get a lot more pulling power – 300Nm in all. Every Mokka is theoretically capable of towing a braked trailer of up to 1200kg in weight, but this diesel variant is the only one that'll take such a task in its stride.

Under the skin are the underpinnings of a supermini – more specifically, the Chevrolet Aveo, mechanicals Chevrolet has also used in its Trax small lifestyle Crossover that's one of this Vauxhall's sharpest rivals. In the back, the rear seats benefit from wide opening doors that simplify the fitment of a child seat, though that sharply rising waistline might restrict the view out for smaller occupants. As for luggage room, well, there's no high boot lip to negotiate and beyond it lies 356-litres of space .

'Most telling comparisons come when you begin to stack this Mokka up against something more conventional

So, this Mokka's a small, trendily-styled five-door little SUV/Crossover isn't it? Well yes. So it'll be priced directly against the other car we tend of think of in this market sector, Nissan's Juke, won't it? Well, no. Vauxhall points out – correctly – that their car is a significantly larger thing – hence the price span for the range that lies in the £16,000 to £24,000 bracket. To put that into perspective for you, that means you'll be paying a price premium of around £2,500 for this Mokka over an equivalent Juke.

Perhaps the most telling comparisons come when you begin to stack this Mokka up against something more conventional. Why, for example, would you buy a conventional 1.6-litre petrol-powered Vauxhall Astra hatchback when a Mokka with the same engine would save you £1,500 and offer more luggage space?

If, having considered all of this, you decide that it is indeed a Mokka that you actually want, then you'll be pleased to find that whichever of the five-door models you choose – 1.6-litre petrol 2WD, 1.4-litre petrol turbo 4WD or the 1.7-litre 130PS CDTI diesel in either drive configuration - it'll come well equipped.

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Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO_2 emissions (g/km). Mokka Exclusiv 1.6 16v (115PS) VVT Start/Stop FWD: Urban: 33.6 (8.4), Extra-urban: 52.3 (5.4), Combined: 43.5 (6.5). CO_2 emissions 153g/km.#

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CALL PETE - MAN WITH A VAN, Removals, clearances. Items large or small. Call: 01902 741546 or 07899 635852.

roofing

MG ROOFING Flat roofs, tiling, roof repairs, fascias and gutters. Call 01902 238989 / 07580 465449.

PREMIER ROOFING New Roofs, Repairs, Facias & Gutters. Call: 0121 532 7601or 07875 387445.

skip hire

BIG JOHN MOVES RUBBISH! No Skips, we load, fast friendly service, 25 Lister Rd, Dudley DY2 8JR, Est 30 years, 01384 232359.

woodburners and stoves

WOODBURNING / MULTIFUEL Stoves. Flues, installation. Free surveys. Stourbridge 01384 390183. severnvalleystoves.com

4 Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses have the required Passport information.

BLACK AND WHITE FILLY, Gypsy type, two years old, good to handle. £225. Telephone 07761 379384.

guns & dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

WORKING ENGLISH Springer liver and white pups, KC Reg., docked, chipped, £475. 07913 695976.

pets corner

GREYHOUNDS MAKE WONDERFUL PETS
All neutered, innoculated and chipped.
Call Greyhound Trust 01922 412212 or www.rgtwolverhampton.co.uk

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.
Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

BABY FERRETS for sale. Hobs and Gills. £10. 01384 863608. 07909 564590.

BEAUTIFUL RAGDOLL CATS Brother and Sister, very large, chocolate and cream, blue eyes. Must go together. **£100 to ensure good home. 01902 471851 after 4pm.**

FOREST DOG RESCUE
Rehoming -
Ace - Lab X, 18mths, male. **Stanley** - English Bull Terrier, 5yrs, male. **Oz** - Hound, 2yrs, male. **Rollo** - JRT, 8mths, male. **Lara** - Terrier, 18mths, female. **Dixie-Mitzy** - Husky, 2yrs, female. **Jack** - Collie, 8yrs, male. **Blu** - Staffie, 6yrs, male. **Cole**- X Breed, 2yrs, male. **Shadow** - Rottie, 5yrs, male. **Ozzie** - Staffie, 18mths, male. **01299 269181 or 07564 262371 www.forest-dog-rescue.org.uk**

GOLDEN RETRIEVER Puppies. KC Reg. Insured. 1st Vacs. Superb temperaments. Ideal pet/gun dog, holidays honoured. 07875 331160 or 01905 333663.

5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering any obligations.

business directory

accountants

ACCOUNTS, BOOK KEEPING, PAYROLL, VAT New start-ups welcome. Phone Clover on: 01384 459714 or 07715 510749.

6 Property

properties wanted

LOCAL INVESTOR can pay 10% more than all these guys. Call Alex 07729 297901

WE GUARANTEE TO BUY YOUR HOUSE IN 3 DAYS!
24 HOUR FREEPHONE:
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accommodation to let

NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

MODERN 2-BED Flats & Houses, Tipton, Dudley & Upper Gornal. DSS OK. Call or text 07754 076795

NETHERTON AREA two bed house, DHSS welcome, 30 plus, deposit required. Call 07780 704435.

ONE BED modernised 1st floor flat, above shops, in Featherstone. All inquiries 07885 832793.

THREE BED house, Brierley Hill area, CH, DG, £550pcm, deposit required. 07976 781003.

TWO BED Semi with loft bedroom, Penn, Wolverhampton, nice area £515pcm 07730 565912.

overseas property

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

houses for sale

BLACKPOOL
Two bed detached dormer bungalow, large garden, large garage, kitchen/diner and bathroom.
5 mins North of Prom, Shops, buses and trams,
£166,000/
CASH OFFER.
01253 622847.

LLANGYNIEW
Superb chalet bungalow.
Fully residential, 3 beds.
Fully double glazed and central heating. Lovely gardens, all round with a view over the valley.
£85,000 ono.
01938 811194.

MUST BE SEEN

TWO BED BUNGALOW LARGE WORKSHOP
Would suit vintage car or motorcycle repairer, in KIDDERMINSTER
£135,000.
01562 822266, call after 7pm.

MUST BE SEEN

mobile homes

HOLIDAY CHALET
11 month season, 2014 site fees paid. Mid Wales nr Welshpool Powys, well appointed and maintained, 2-bed Omar Park Home, GCH, DG, elevated position with fantastic views. Beautiful site with swimming pool and fishing lake, games room and tennis court.
Offers in the region of £48,000.
Ring 07795 160773.

PARK HOME Stately Albion, 2 bed, en suite + bathroom, double unit, Shrewsbury / Oswestry, £120,000. 01691 682118. 07975 643737.

We NEED Houses In Your Area
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On select site with stunning views.
Fishing. Wi-Fi. Sky.
£65,000 ono.
Telephone 07702 344024 or 01588 630027.

BARGAIN

7 Jobs

building & construction

TIME SERVED BRICKLAYERS Required to join existing Gang, directly employed, working in the Stourbridge area. Tel 01384 423646.

courses

BILLY THOMAS HGV Driver Training
DSA QUALIFIED INSTRUCTORS
HGV C+E (ARTIC) & C (RIGID)
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drivers

VAN DRIVERS REQUIRED For weekend work. Full and part time positions. Email CV to info@jxlogistics.co.uk Strictly no agencies

8 Motoring

cars under £1500

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED
that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

AUDI A6 TDi Sport, Diesel, 2002, 138,000 miles, new cambelt/water pump February, tax/MoT, silver, £1,300 ono. 01384 270574.

CITROEN PICASSO 2.0 HDi, 01, 11 mths MoT, 5 mths Tax, 135k miles, new cambelt, electric SR, £550 ono. 07548 511612 / 01902 847277

CITROEN XSARA, 109,000 miles, red, electric windows, air con, long MoT, c/l, pas, diesel, sunroof, CD, towbar, £315 ono. 07920 133808.

DAEWOO MATIZ, 2002, 73,000 miles, metallic green, full MoT, engine serviced, very clean. £795. 01384 910551.

FORD FIESTA Flame, 2004, 1.4, manual petrol, 5dr, FSH, 12 months MoT, £1,100. 07803 909920.

FORD FIESTA, Y reg, 1.2, 5 door, full MoT, tax, e/w, good condition, CD player, £740 o.n.o. Telephone 07405 946630.

FORD FOCUS ZETEC, 2003, 61k, silver, 5 door, 2nd owner, tax and MoT, recent service, cambelt. £795. 07930 315922.

FORD FOCUS W reg, 2-dr, taxed Sept, MoT till August 2015 only £795 ono. 01902 822939 / 07928 679949.

FORD KA 1.3 03, black, MoT Apr 15, long tax, 90,000 miles, excellent condition. £685 ono 01902 788829 / 07813 932880.

FORD KA 1.3, 2003, 52 reg, silver, MoT to Feb 15, Good condition. £695. 07961 589264. (T)

FORD MONDEO 1.8LX, 2002, tax November, new MoT, alloys, a/c, CD, metallic green, £695. 01889 582030 (Rugeley).

FORD MONDEO 2003, Diesel Automatic, 6 months tax, long MoT, £800 ono. 07751 000404.

HONDA SHUTTLE 1998, 7 seater, automatic, 9 months MoT, good runner, £800 ono. 01902 374587.

LANDROVER Freelander, 1999, spares/repair, running order, needs partial exhaust, bodywork / tyres excellent, £500. 07816 538089.

NISSAN TERRANO 4 x 4, 2001, 2.7D, Auto, 7 seater, metallic blue, MoT and tax till Jan 2015, £1,395 ono. 07973 829909.

PEUGEOT 1007 05, 12 months MoT, 5 months tax, 71,000 miles, £1,500. 01902 375589.

PEUGEOT 406 S HDi 90 diesel estate, 53 reg, good runner, tax , MoT, 110,000 miles, £875 ono. 07791 808779.

PEUGEOT 407 1.9 HDi, 04, 136,212 miles, silver, MoT April 2015, Tax March 2015, alloys, EW, stereo, CD, £1,275 ono. 07941 112657.

PEUGEOT 407 1.9 HDi, 04, 136,212 miles, silver, MoT April 2015, Tax March 2015, alloys, EW, stereo, CD, £1,350 ono. 07941 112657.

RENAULT MEGANE, silver, abs, electric windows, long MoT, central locking, pas, stereo, convertible, £750 ono. 01902 570120.

ROVER 25 1.4, X reg, 70k, service history, CD, alloys, tax and MoT, excellent condition, £550 ono. 07901 125383.

ROVER 25, 2002, 26,000 miles, blue, electric windows, alarm, MoT, one owner, sunroof, £350 ono. 07831 805431.

ROVER 25, 52 reg., tax 2 months, MoT April, petrol, 1400, blue, drive away, £750 o.n.o. 01384 457219.

TOYOTA PREVIA 8 seater, MPV, K3 WYN reg, needs minor attention for MoT, bargain £950. 07733 683463.

TOYOTA SURF 2.5
Diesel auto, very good condition, private plate, three owners, 10 months MoT, four months tax.
£1,350 o.n.o.
07740 958652.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.0, 51 plate, 3 door, new shape, full MOT, alloys, very reliable, new battery, serviced, CL, £725 ono. 07956 517744.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.0, R reg., red, six months tax, full MoT, good runner, ideal first car, £350. 07966 741259.

cars over £1500

BMW 318 silver, 54 plate, 55,000 genuine miles, 12 months MoT, excellent condition, £4,000 ono. 07960 508662.

BMW 318Ti SE COMPACT
Registered 30th November 2001, Automatic, 3 door Hatchback, petrol, 1995cc. 97,000 miles. Excellent condition, full BMW service history, taxed February 2015, MoT November 2014.
£1,950
Ring Brian on: 07791 297410.

CITROEN C4 VTS, 06 reg, 2.0, petrol, 3-dr, MoT, tax, 78,000 miles, FSH, mint condition, £2,195 ono. 07955 587600.

CITROEN PICASSO VTX 2008, 1.6, fsh, cruise control, parking sensors, 25,900 miles, MoT March, immaculate, £2,950. 01562 747769.

FIAT BRAVO 1.4 Active, 57 reg., 113k miles, taxed, MoT, good condition all round, £2,249 ono. 07455 903660. 07910 625250.

FORD FREDA (MAZDA BONGO) Diesel, 6 months MoT, 8 seater or 4-berth. Excellent condition. Offers around £2,800. 07966 175576.

FORD KA STYLE PLUS, 2010, 1242cc, service history, 24,000 miles, excellent condition, lady owner, 34,450. 07886 176915.

HONDA CIVIC 1.8SE
5 door, blueish silver, 2006, 117k miles, fsh and MoT, full leather seats, excellent condition, very reliable.
£3,000 ono.
01746 769646.

SHOWROOM CONDITION

LANDROVER FREELANDER
2007, 49,000 miles, tax and MoT, excellent condition throughout.
£16,000 ono.
01299 266207.

SHOWROOM CONDITION

JAGUAR X TYPE 2.1 V6
Metallic grey, 6 disc player, black leather, nice condition, reverse sensors, MoT, tax 12 months, 64k.
£3,500 ono.
01902 842380.

JAGUAR S TYPE 3.0 V6, 03 reg, taxed till Jan 2015, MoT till March 2015, FSH, 6 speed automatic, £2,200 ono. 07949 776824.

MAZDA MX5 1.8SE ROADSTER COUPE
Reg July 2013, 7,114 miles, crystal white pearlescent, 11 months tax, 2 years Mazda warranty, chrome pack and MX5 mats.
£14,500.
07712 480817.

MERCEDES C CLASS DIESEL SPORTS COUPE
55 plate, 06MY. 101,100 miles, blue/black met. Mercedes Benz s/h, just been serviced. MoT Dec 2014. 6 months tax. Reluctant sale.
£3,850 ono.
07773 239292.

MERCEDES BENZ B180 SE, 55 reg, diesel, 5 door, metallic silver, 6 speed, 90k, manual, fsh, tax, MoT, £4,200 ono. 07970 411864.

NISSAN NOTE ACENTA
Automatic, 2008, low miles, 28,150, SH from new, looks and drives like new, any test or inspection, all mod cons.
£4,300.
01922 400686 / 07922 941692.

PEUGEOT 3008 Exclusive, 2010, silver, automatic, excellent condition, 8 months Tax/MoT. £7,300. 01902 786899.

PEUGEOT 307CC, 2007, 2.0 HDI Sport, 71k miles, black, MoT till July 2015, tax Jan 2015. 4 new tyres and cambelt. £4,300 ono. 07969 436916.

RENAULT 4 X 4 Koleos, 2.0 diesel, 58 reg, 23,000 miles, FSH, AC, CL, immaculate condition, £5,850. Stourbridge 07968 350727.

RENAULT CLIO 1.2 2002, red, tax Aug 31, MoT Nov 30, full history. £850 ono. 07777 632608.

RENAULT KANGOO
2008, 23,526 miles, blue, 11 months, MoTand tax, manual, petrol, 4 seats, wheelchair access via ramp.
£4,499 ono.
07783 999088.

RENAULT MEGAN DYNAMIQUE
Gold, 2007 plate, lady owner, 10 months MoT and tax, 32,000 miles, 3-dr, excellent condition.
£2,950 ono.
01384 279978. 07906 754301.

RENAULT MEGANE SL OASIS 1500CC 05 plate, 12 months MoT, £30 tax, 83,000 miles. £1,995 ono. 07799 130064 / 07867 550675.

SUZUKI GRAND VITARA, 05 reg., 2.0 Diesel, Tax, MoT, 45,000 miles. Good condition. £3,250. o.n.o. 07951 967444.

MUST BE SEEN

TOYOTA AVENSIS 1.8 TX3
54 reg. 67,075 miles, silver. Full Toyota Service History. Tax and MoT till November. Very good condition. Reluctant sale.
£2,150.
01384 236947 / 07581 238851.

MUST BE SEEN

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2
3Dr, Energy, 2010, metallic blue, 21k miles, one lady owner, MoT March 2015, FSH, excellent condition.
£4,950.
01902 333986/07753 381034.

full time - general

Shropshire STAR

CIRCULATION REPRESENTATIVE

The Shropshire Star is looking for a circulation representative to lead and motivate the sales teams to actively drive sales, grow audience and strengthen brand awareness.

Working in a busy customer focused environment the successful candidate will manage sales within a defined territory working closely with colleagues, retailers and supply points to maximise all business and sales opportunities. You will develop and nurture existing business relationships whilst actively seeking new sales opportunities working hard to achieve and exceed agreed KPI's.

The successful applicant will have a professional attitude, be able to demonstrate excellent customer service skills and have a real passion for driving sales. A proven track record in sales, particularly within the newspapers industry would be advantageous but is not essential as full training and support will be provided.

In return we offer a competitive annual salary, 25 days annual holiday per year and enrolment into the company pension scheme. Additionally the role comes with the benefit of a company car so a full driving licence is required.

Working Hours:
37.5 hours per week, worked across 5 days between Monday-Saturday, weekends and Bank Holiday working will be required on a rota basis

Applications including full CV by email:
personnel@expressandstar.co.uk

Postal address:
Personnel Department
Midland News Association
Queen Street
Wolverhampton
WV1 1ES

Closing Date for applications:
Tuesday 26th August, 2014.

Part of Shropshire Newspapers Ltd

MNA Media

FreeAds

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*Advertise any item ***FREE*** up to the value of ***£250,*** simply fill out the details below or book online at ***www.expressandstar.com/bookanad***

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Name: _____ **Address:** _____

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*Private advertisers only, no guns, pets, or livestock. Limited time only
Free adverts are published within 7 days of receipt, in-paper and online and are limited to 3 lines maximum

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01902 317878

ClassifiedAds

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.0. Black, Reg 2004 (03), 38,000 miles, concertina sunroof, MoT'd, Taxed. One lady owner, £2,000. Call 01902 473358.

VOLKSWAGEN PASSAT SE TDI 130
03, 118,000 miles, blue, e/w, e/m, a/c, alarm, long MoT, c/l, alloys, 6 CD autochanger, tax end Sept.
£1,650 ono.
07544 741292.

VW FOX 1.2 2008, gun metal grey, long MoT, tax, 70,000 miles, excellent condition, HPi clear, cheap 1st car. £2,150 ono. 07828 740856.

classic cars

CLASSIC CARS WANTED
Private cash buyer
Instant cash settlement.
Any age. any condition.
Call Market Drayton.
01630 652993.

CLASSIC CAR

MGB GT
1977, original condition, new MoT, no welding, body needs finishing, low mileage,
£1,250.
Also MGB GT
In Track Trim, with tax and MoT, respayed.
£1,950.
01384 74272.

CLASSIC CAR

MORRIS MINOR, 1968, good condition, taxed and MoT'd, lots of money spent on her, reluctant sale, £2,600ono. 07909 857811.

driving tuition

Homer's
Mini, Clio, Corsa, Fiesta, Punto, 207, KA, Fiat 500, Yaris.
10 Hours £89! Five Hours £50!
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01902 580065
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motorbikes

HONDA CRF250L
(63 PLATE)
Tax Dec, heated grips/top box, 2,600 miles. Mature owner. warranty/breakdown cover December 2015, fsh. Beautiful condition. **£2,995. ono.**
Telephone 07890 180410
(Kidderminster).

HONDA MAGNA VF 750cc
Yellow, T Reg, (1999),
Summer use only.
11,843 miles. MoT till March 15.
Garaged,
Excellent condition.
£3,299 ono.
01902 256344.

SUZUKI BURGMAN 650 scooter, 2006, metallic silver, 3,200 miles only, excellent condition, tax and MoT, £3,125 ono. 07877 722908.

TRIUMPH BONERVILLE SE, 865cc, 2011, phantom black, tax, 2,200 miles, one owner. £4,600ono. 01384 877423.

YAMAHA THUNDER ACE 1000. 2002. Red and silver. Immaculate. MoT, tax February 2015. £2,300 ono. 01902 893778.

YAMAHA XJ600 1991, 19,557 miles, long MoT, brand new back tyre, monokey panniers, very good condition, £700. 07902 727471.

scrap vehicles

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

1st CHOICE
TOP PRICE PAID 4 SCRAP CARS!
VANS! CAMPERS! MOT FAILURES!
ANYTHING CONSIDERED
FREE COLLECTION
WITHIN THE HOUR! 7 DAYS
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07977 499516
07895 346811- 24 hrs

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01902 659775 evenings

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VANS, BIKES, CLASSICS
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1000's of parts available at all times
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for scrap or damaged cars and commercials. Spares for sale.
NINE LOCKS VEHICLE DISMANTLERS LTD
Brierley Hill 01384 76566 or 70553. Evenings 75397.
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vehicles wanted

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Used cars wanted for cash
Top prices paid. HP settled.
Buyer could call.
01562 711083 /
07831 245313

CROWN MOTORS Guarantee best cash price for unwanted cars/vans. Call 01902 597035 / 07903 549849.

WANTED. Ford Mondeo Ghia X, 2005-2006, automatic, low mileage, petrol.
Please call 01902 785932.

spares & accessories

accessories & services

ALLOY WHEELS and tyres, 295/30R22 103Y, good condition, good tread, from BMW X5. £350. Telephone 01902 786899.

clutches / brakes / gearboxes

A CLUTCH CHANGE MOBILE
30 yrs experience
ALL AREAS COVERED
Call Bob
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mobile mechanics

MOBILE MECHANICS Service & repairs. Headgasket, clutches and cambelts. 07747 848469.

tyres / wheels / exhausts

ALLOY WHEELS and tyres, 295/30R22 103Y, good condition, good tread, from BMW X5. £350. Telephone 01902 786899.

9 Local Information

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES
For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to
Marie Hogg on
01902 713146
or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk
(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

public & legal notices

Staffordshire County Council

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 (AS AMENDED)
ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

DUNSLEY ROAD, KINVER
DIVERSION OF VEHICULAR TRAFFIC

NOTICE is hereby given that the Staffordshire County Council, on 19 August 2014, made an Order the effect of which is to prohibit any vehicle from proceeding in that length of Dunsley Road, Kinver in the vicinity of Dunsley Hall Hotel unless the vehicle is being used in connection with the works.

The preferred alternative route for traffic will be available via A449 Kidderminster Road, Windsor Holloway, Cookley Lane, Church Hill, Mill Lane, Dunsley Road and vice versa.

THE ORDER WILL COME INTO OPERATION ON 26 AUGUST 2014, AND THE SAID WORKS WILL COMMENCE ON OR AS NEAR AS PRACTICABLE TO THAT DATE. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THE WORKS WILL BE COMPLETED BY 01 SEPTEMBER 2014.

The Order will remain in force for a period of 18 months or until the new gas service works, which it is proposed to carry out on or near the road, have been completed, whichever is the earlier.

John Tradewell, Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation
No. 1 Staffordshire Place, Tipping Street, Stafford, ST16 2LP

Ref: S25772; Enquiries: Customer Contact Centre; Tel: 0300 111 8000
http://roadworks.org

Date: 22 August 2014

10 Personals

general

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

LOOK

APPEAL FOR WITNESSES TO CAR ACCIDENT
If you witnessed a car accident at the junction of Wolverhampton Road and Deans Road on the evening of Saturday, August 2, at approximately 10.20pm, we kindly ask that you contact West Midlands Police on 101, quoting date, time and location of the accident.
Thank you in advance to anyone who may be able to help.

ARE YOU NORWEGIAN or do you know a Norwegian person?
If so please contact 01902 670262.

personal

GENTLEMAN 75
Wishes to meet lady of similar age, for Friendship, evenings out to theatre shows who enjoys music and going for days trips.
Box Number P19403,
Express and Star,
Queen Street,
Wolverhampton
WV1 1ES

LADY, YOUNG 74
Would like to meet a gentleman for companionship, maybe relationship in time.
My interests are going to theatre, dancing, days out and holidays.
Box Number P19409 ,
Express and Star,
Queen Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

MALE, 50
SLIM, 5FT 10INS
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EUROPEAN beauty romantic, caring, attentive, looking for loving male to enjoy warm loving relationship with, call me to find out more. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413013**

KAREN 34 blue/green eyed size 12 attractive brunette who loves pubs, cosy nights in, kids, seeking special honest guy/dad for poss ltr. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413005**

CHRISTINA, curvy beauty, 27yrs, own home, very very adventurous seeks no strings fun and frolics. Can accommodate and will answer all calls. **Tel No: 0905 002 1957 Box 410127**

ROSA 27 sexy senorita seeking older handsome prince charming to whisk me off my feet, enjoy fun times, improve my English and fall in love with. Age/race unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412927**

RITA attractive blonde with a very kind heart seeks special man to share my life with. Please get in touch if like me you are fed up with always being the single friend. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412987**

ZOE, 25yrs, very naughty seeks man any age for broad minded no strings fun and games. **Tel No: 0905 002 1933 Box 409719**

JAN 5ft8ins slim pretty lady in great shape, open-minded, laidback, GSOH, OHAC, many interests, WLTM someone for cuddling up with and to share good and bad times. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412931**

SUE, 38yrs, passionate, broadminded and feisty seeks discreet fun with "mr wrong". Aca. **Tel No: 0905 002 1937 Box 413007**

YOUNG looking 43 yr old single brunette female, Staffordshire, likes animals, the countryside, meals out and cosy nights in Wltm single male 30-40 for friendship maybe more and to help mend my broken heart. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4457647**

SONYA slim attractive vibrant lady with GSOH, social nature, fit/active, WLTM N/S male up to 60yrs for romantic genuine respectful relationship, loving. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413441**

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ANNA, busty mature lady seeks no strings discreet meetings with male any age or location. **Tel No: 0905 002 1956 Box 366019**

FELICITY professional female, 32yrs, blonde, curvy, fun. Travels a lot and wltm chap for occasional fun on my travels. **Text only Box: 4459438**

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JAN slim curvy professional warm, affectionate, looking to fill full time vacancy with similar male who loves cuddles/kisses and bikes for romance. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412725**

KAREN pretty blonde, short in stature, big personality, keeps fit, loves dogs, seeking honest, caring male who can make me laugh. Nothing too serious just fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412377**

JEAN petite female who enjoys golf, days out, cosy evenings in, holidays, WLTM older male in his 60's with a good personality and big heart. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412359**

JULIE really fun loving slim pretty female 38 looking for nice guy to go out with, get to know and hopefully enjoy a relationship with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411517**

ANN slim attractive N/S lady who is easy to get along with, looking for romantic interesting man for new adventures together, hopefully ltr. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412911**

LUCY beautiful busty bubbly blonde 32yrs, seeking naughty boy to enjoy the fun side of life with, age, status and looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411691**

JULIE loving, caring, honest, seeks real gent to share conversation and have a great time, friendship/relationship, who knows? **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412777**

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Men seeking women

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JEFF young 62, N/S, tall, fit, energetic, seeking new female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413053**

BLACK guy 68, feels 45, looks 40, seeks female, 58-71, GSOH, genuine, caring for fun times and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413375**

TALL Indian gent, 53, seeks sensual lady for friendship plus, interesting chap, discreet days in and nights out. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413315**

JOHN 70, tall, slim, seeking female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413183**

LONELY male, disabled, would like to meet male or female for company. Likes animals, visiting historical places, karaoke. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4172884**

FUN loving easy going guy, 30, tall dark and handsome, looking for an older woman who likes good times and fun. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4453744**

ADVENTUROUS 32yr old slim, dark haired, creative, likes music, cycling and photography, seeks likeminded female to share fun and happiness with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 352753**

6FT 1ins slim, dark hair, likes walking, animals, seeking medium build female, 60-80 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413193**

JOHN 5ft 10ins, slim, GSOH, various interests, seeks female for friendship/relationship, 35-52. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413107**

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TONY young looking 50's male, 5ft 8ins, many interests, easy going, seeks slim rock chick or similar for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413275**

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TONY 52, dark hair, white male, 6ft, confident, GSOH, seeks black female. Genuine ad. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412481**

TONY young looking 50, 5ft 8ins, slim, seeks slim rock chick, trendy for dates and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413049**

NORTH Shropshire male, 67, N/S, solvent, GSOH, likes walks, travel, music, holidays, countryside, seeks N/S lady for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412867**

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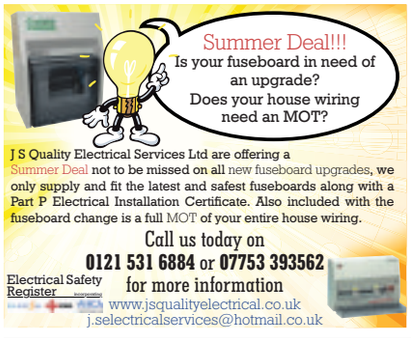

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Millers grind out a lucky victory

Rotherham 1 Wolves 0

RYAN Hall's winnerocurred against the run of play in what was the Millers' solitary chance of the entire second half.

It came too late for Wolves to rally as they slipped to an undeserved defeat. But such is the nature of the Championship.

The losing feeling is unfamiliar for Wolves after just one defeat in their final 21 games last season en route to the League One title.

And there is a sense of injustice given that the visitors' efforts should have yielded at least a point. The two defeats on the bounce, to Northampton and now Rotherham, had an eerie similarity as Kenny Jackett's men dominated on each occasion but failed to win.

Credit must go to the Millers' stoic resistance, but after wasting several fine first-half chances Wolves' openings dried up.

Their attacking ingenuity has, in the last two games, given a little cause for concern but general play means there should not be any long-term worries.

There is a sense that Wolves are just warming up and the back-to-back defeats have been unfortunate and undeserved.

Wright targets two big wins for safety

Cricket

SKIPPER Greg Wright urged his Himley side to keep the faith after their Birmingham League Premier Division survival hopes suffered a blow at home to Walmley.

The hosts, who are bottom of the division, had been eyeing maximum points against a mid-table opponent.

But their nine-run defeat leaves them 33 points from safety with five games left to play, and Wright conceded that his side probably need to win both of their forthcoming games over the bank holiday weekend to give themselves a fighting chance of survival.

But he added: "We have got to keep believing. We have got Brockhampton at home on Saturday and then Knowle & Dorridge away on Monday, and if we win both of those we give ourselves a chance.

"It was disappointing on Saturday because it was a big game for both teams and we knew we needed to win probably four of our last six, so to lose the first of those six was a big blow.

"We should have won it, we should have knocked them off but we are coming up short in one or two departments each game and on Saturday it was our batting."

Himley's Danny Smith took 4-21 against Walmley who were bowled out for 143 but the hosts then slumped to a nine-run defeat with Wright and Jamie Harris top-scoring (25 each).

Meanwhile Kidderminster improved their own survival chances with a two-wicket win at home to fellow strugglers Walsall.

Jordan Stynes top-scored for the visitors with an unbeaten 42 in a total of 189-9 but the hosts got home with two balls remaining. Stynes helped Walsall back from 56-5 but Neil Pinner (39), Matt Pardoe (38) and Andy Siwicki (33) did just enough to see Kidderminster to a victory which takes them 29 points clear of danger. Walsall meanwhile are 20 adrift of third-bottom Dorridge as a result of that loss.

At the other end of the table Premier Division leaders West Bromwich Dartmouth kept themselves on course for the title with a three-wicket victory over Knowle & Dorridge, now fourth.

Dartmouth restricted K&D to 214-7 with Aqsad Ali taking 3-45.

Dorgan's strike is killer for Lockmen

Dudley Sports 0
Willenhall 1

A Matt Dorgan wonder strike won an absorbing West Midlands Premier game for Willenhall at Dudley Sports.

Michael Clark, Andre Calder, Joe Noel and Ryan Ward all had efforts in the first 20 minutes without threatening a goal.

As the half wore on Sports took control of play but failed to threaten a goal, the closest either side came was Willenhall's Jack Pottinger's overhead kick which rattled the home team's crossbar, while Tony Clift fired over in a breakaway for the visitors, but Sports were the more threatened when keeper Ben Holden denied Jonathan Letford with a fine save on 62 minutes.

The winner came a minute later and what a score it was.

Tom Turner's knock down bounced perfectly for Dorgan and he absolutely hammered his strike, flying over Dominic Richards' head and in from almost 30 yards.

Turner then fired wide a minute later and Pottinger and Ward also went close but generally it was stout defending that kept out the home side and a couple of excellent blocks from keeper Newton.

Nothing is friendly about a thrashing

Stourbridge RFC 61 Old Halesonians 5

STOURBRIDGE did their near neighbours few favours in this friendly, playing a fast, expansive style of rugby and dominating possession for long periods of play.

Rugby

The visitors were given a very rude awakening as halfbacks Sione Tu'ipolotu and Gary Dipple moved the ball rapidly to the three-quarter line where fullback Jamie Hearn outpaced the defence.

The cover closed in as he reached the 22 but an inside pass to the supporting Eji Uzoigwe produced a try with less than a minute gone.

The ball was moved left where Hearn's pass found Stef Cooksammy in acres of space, he sidestepped the cover to score.

Club record try scorer Nathan Bressington also got on the scoresheet as he breezed into the corner making ti 17-0 after 20min.

Robbie Hurrell's inside pass found fellow second row Ciaran Moore who burst through the cover to score in the corner.

Hales kicked the restart dead and compounded the error by conceding a penalty at the resulting scrum.

Drew Harper, No.8, tapped and ran and the pressure started to tell on Old Hales' defence as they coughed up a couple of penalties in their own 22.

Tu'ipolotu tapped and ran from short range, the ball was worked back to Harper who barged over despite the attentions of three defenders.

It was more of the same from the restart, Hales unable to get their hands on the ball as first Harper then Uzoigwe drove big holes into the defences.

Tighthead Mark George's offload finally found Uzoigwe in support to score. With no further scoring it was 34-0 at halftime and a rash of substitutes came on for both sides.

Hales managed to advance into Stour's 22 but were shoved off their own scrum ball by a big loose head drive from new signing Steve Blackburn.

The ball was worked left and recycled quickly for Uzoigwe to bag a hat-trick try at the canter.

Chris Depper then secured a wayward lineout throw and launched an attack that was finished off by hooker Liam Wordley .

Stour deployed their kicking game to advance downfield, they again managed to drive Hales off their own scrum ball for scrum half Alex Moy to move the ball, Cooksammy sneaking in for a try in the corner.

Turnovers led to further clinical tries from Hearn and Bown to lead 61-0 .

The fourth quarter opened with an outstanding long range try for Hales

Stourbridge's Drew Harper on the attack in the friendly against Old Hales. *Picture Cath Jenkins*

Yeltz ladies hold on in 9-goal thriller

Halesowen Ladies 5
Wednesfield 4

THE Yeltz squad faced Wednesfield , who are two leagues above them in the Regional Premier, for a pre-season friendly.

Sophie Richards found Rachel Letford unmarked and she placed the ball past the stranded keeper.

Within 20 minutes the home side were two up through Lyndsey Glover .

Richards scored a deserved goal late on in the half .

Within three mins Yeltz striker Sian Whithall scored making it 4-1.

Wednesfield scored from a penalty.

Halesowen made it five with Claire Wilson with a run through midfield .

Irvine has lifted mood, says Brunt

CAPTAIN Chris Brunt says boss Alan Irvine has lifted Albion's spirit from rock bottom.

The 29-year-old says the atmosphere at the Hawthorns is a "million times" different from that of last season when the Baggies campaign was marred by a host of off-field problems.

Brunt says the spirit in the dressing room had "pretty much died" toward the end of last season and had credited head coach Irvine with reviving it.

"He deserves a lot of credit," said Brunt.

"His sessions have been great, the training has been brilliant and the lads have been really up for it so that's credit to him, Rob and Keith."

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Heathens are buzzing for double header

Speedway

CRADLEY are buzzing ahead of next Tuesday's double-header at Monmore – according to boss Will Pottinger.

The Heathens are on target to finish top of the National League table for a staggering fourth time in five seasons after a brilliant win at Mildenhall on Sunday with a patched up side.

They were without Steve Worrall and Paul Starke who were on Premier League duty – and reserve Danny Phillips suffered shoulder and hip injuries riding at Workington the previous night.

But a stunning display by 16-year-old reserve Nathan Greaves inspired the team to victory at their bitter rivals.

And Pottinger says with Starke and Worrall back for both meetings next Tuesday – against King's Lynn at 7.15pm followed immediately by the return clash with Mildenhall – the team are on a high.

He said: "We are looking forward to every meeting with the way things are going at the moment, so we can't wait for the double header next week.

"We are pretty much guaranteed a play-off place now, but we know it's important to be on form when it comes to the play-offs.

"And we want to consolidate our position at the top of the league to make sure we have first pick of opponents and also keep our confidence high.

"We will be looking for two more big wins against King's Lynn and Mildenhall in what will be two tricky meetings.

"They are both strong teams who are capable of causing us problems, so we will need to be on top of our game.

"Hopefully we will be at full strength, and if that's the case we have to be confident we can come away with six more points.

"We are on a great winning run but we can't afford to get complacent, and we'll be hoping for two more good performances at Monmore next Tuesday.

"It's going to be a busy night of action and we are all looking forward to it."

Admission next Tuesday is £14 adults, £10 concessions and children are free. Readmission tickets from last week's abandoned match with Mildenhall are valid with a £3 supplement for adults and £2 concessions.

Yeltz get the point of bomb by Bragoli

Halesowen 1
Skelmersdale 1

DANNY Bragoli's last minute equaliser gave Halesowen the share of the points in a feisty encounter against Skelmersdale United.

Halesowen made three changes to the side that featured against Black Country Rangers last week, with Peter Till, Joe Hull and star Elliott Turner all starting, while Joel Kettle, Aaron Griffiths and Neil Mackenzie were reduced to the bench.

It didn't take long for both sides to get going after half time, as The Skem's Danny Mitchley just put the ball past the wrong side of the post, and Halesowen's Iyseden Christie just headed wide.

The deadlock was broken on 75 minutes, as Sargeant undid all his hard work by rushing off his line, and Mccarthy hit a shot under him and was going in until Curtis Tilt managed to keep the ball out, but Sargeant couldn't get back to his line quick enough, as Mccarthy chased up the loose ball and tapped it in.

United were then reduced to 10 men,.

However, there was one last twist Danny Bragoli lobbed the keeper from 20 yards out to snatch a pointto get Halesowen off the mark.

Bronze award for refs group

WOLVERHAMPTON Referees' Association have been handed a top national award.

They are just the 11th Association in the country – out of 256 – to achieve the Bronze Award and the first in the West Midlands.

It is for the Association's work with the referees of Wolverhampton and was handed out by the Referees' Association of England chairman Ian Davies.

The Association needed to prove their members were proactively involved and aware of the election of officers.

Their finances, including accounts, and records – which needed to be on an electronic database – had to also be checked.

Chairman Phil Reade said: "Only two RA's in the county have the silver award and that what we're aiming for next."

KNIGHT RIDES IN TO SAVE THE DAY

Ilkeston Town 3 Stourbridge 4

SUPERSUB Chris Knight scored a dramatic winner for Stourbridge as they took the honours in a seven-goal thriller.

The Glassboys looked to be cruising to victory until a fightback from the home side hauled them level with just two minutes to play.

But Knight drilled home a last gasp winner from the edge of the area to maintain his side's perfect start to the season.

Kayelden Brown handed the visitors a fifth minute lead and that was all that separated the sides at the break.

And it took just seven minutes of the second half for Jordan Fitzpatrick to double the advantage.

But the game burst into life midway through the half when Kane Richards reduced the arrears moments before Stour's Drew Canavan was denied by the crossbar.

Fightback

With 15 minutes to go Leon Broadhurst slotted home from a corner but this sparked the Ilkeston fightback with Richards netting his second of the game before Rob Duffy levelled from the spot after Che Adams had been brought down.

But there was still time for the Glassboys to make it back-to-back wins, half-time substitute Knight finding the net with his dramatic winner.

On Saturday Stourbridge won their first game in the Northern Premier League beating Whitby Town 2-1,

Football

and it was fully deserved .

It was never in doubt who was the better side, although Stourbridge left it late to wrap up the game despite having a number of chances in both halves.

Jordan Fitzpatrick gave Stourbridge the lead on 19 minutes from close range after an excellent run down the left from Billingham.

Former West Bromwich Albion forward Kayelden Brown was a power house for Stourbridge in the first half and saw a shot hit the side netting as Stourbridge should have gone in more than one up.

Whitby saw their chance to get back in the game at the start of the second half, Craig Farrell trying a half-volley which hit a defender before Liam Shepherd gave them an equaliser on 52 minutes.

Bland continued to be a thorn in Stourbridge's side, twice denying Billingham.

But the winner the Glassboys deserved came on 83 minutes when Billingham's run down the right saw saw him cross for Geddes whose shot went into the net off a defender.

Ben Billingham went close for Stourbridge with this first-half diving header. *Picture Will Kilpatrick Photography*

Tividale start off with style

Lincoln United 1 Tividale 3

TIVIDALE marked their first Evo-Stik League game with a 3-1 success at Lincoln Utd.

Lincoln dominated the first 30 minutes.

The visitors grew into the game though, and went into half-time in the lead, as a Zac Foster free-kick on 39 minutes from 40 yards deceived everyone and looped over the head of United keeper Robert Peet.

Twelve minutes into the second half the scores were level though, as Lincoln won a free-kick and a dead-ball cross from the left was missed by the yellows' defence, leaving an unmarked Sean Wright to tuck away a neat header. Tividale then took the game by the scruff of the neck.

Substitute Jordan Archer made an almost immediate impact.

Two minutes later he latched on to a ball down the left flank. He outpaced his defender and squared for Mitchell Botfield to coolly sidefoot home past Peet. Archer was again the key man for the third in injury time, beating the offside trap and Peet to the ball before nudging it past him.

Two late goals set up replay

St Andrews 2 Tipton 2

TWO goals in the last five minutes earned Tipton Town an FA Cup replay after a 2-2 draw at Leicestershire side St Andrews.

Sam Taylor scored from a penalty. Callum Garis added a second.

But Courtney Pitt buried a header before Alex Ford set up the replay.

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